

THE
BROTHERS.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

THE SECOND EDITION.

By the AUTHOR of
The STAGE-COACH,
AND
LUCY WELLS.

VOL. II.



LONDON:

Printed for R. and J. DODSLEY, at *Tully's Head*,
in *Pall-mall*; and by W. REYMER,
in *Colchester*.

M. DCC. LIX.

THE
BROTHERS

IN THE

THE



THE

AND

BOOKS

VOL. II.



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Printed for R. and J. DODD, at the
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1850.

THE
BROTHERS.

BOOK I.

CHAP. I.

THE wanderers, finding themselves in the street, proposed taking chairs for Argyll buildings; but, unluckily, in the hurry they had put on their cloaths that morning, both had forgot their pockets; and neither had a farthing to defray the expence of such a conveyance: they therefore determined to walk thither; but the agitation of Miss

Prado's spirits rendered the attempt impracticable, and she was very near fainting, by that time they reached the *Jessamine Tree*; which being a shop Mrs. Orrice had been accustomed to, and was well known at, she took her in there, and procured some lavender water, begging leave to sit down, till the young lady was a little recovered from the fatigue of her walk. Whilst she was rubbing Miss Prado's temples, her attention was called off by the entrance of an elderly clergyman, who purchased a canister of snuff, and withdrew. From the time this gentleman appeared, her eyes were fixt on him; and as soon as he was gone, she asked the person who served him, if he knew who he was? "His name is Trew," replied he; "a doctor of divinity, who resides near Windsor." "Doctor Trew!" repeated she, "I thought he had been abroad." "He has not been returned long with the Earl of —;" answered the other. "I wish," said she, "I had been certain it was he; for I have an affair of great moment to impart to him." Upon this, the man in the shop offered

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offered to send to Mr. Doddsley's to enquire
 for him ; saying, it was very probable he
 would be found there, as he usually passed
 many hours there; and invited her and
 the lady to walk into the house, till they
 heard of him. They accepted the offer
 with thanks; and the Doctor returned with
 their messenger, and, in courteous terms,
 desired to know, on what occasion he was
 sent for. " A very particular one, Sir,"
 said Mrs. Orrice, " and I hope such as
 " will plead my excuse for the liberty I
 " have taken in sending for you. I am
 " informed your name is Trew; and as
 " the only relation I know of in the world
 " bears that name, I am desirous of en-
 " quiring after him, tho' I never had the
 " pleasure of seeing him, since he took
 " leave of me at Mrs. Discipline's school
 " in York."—" That must be more than
 ' thirteen years since,' cried he. ' Pray,
 ' Madam, what is your name? for the
 ' person you mean is well known to me;
 ' and if you have any thing material to
 ' communicate to him, he shall be informed
 ' of it by me.'—" Are you not then, Sir,"

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said she,—“ But I will not presume to be
“ impertinently inquisitive: I will only
“ assure you, it would be doing an act
“ becoming your profession to inform
“ him the daughter of his sister Orrice
“ has been four years in the service of
“ Lady Foster; from whom he may
“ receive an account of her conduct, if
“ he will give himself the trouble to en-
“ quire.” The doctor, taking out his
handkerchief, wiped off a tear that was
stealing down his venerable face; and
viewing her stedfastly; ‘ I think,’ said
he, ‘ I can trace your mother’s features
‘ in yours: tell me, are you not Jemima
‘ Orrice?’—“ I am, indeed, Sir; tho’ my
“ station in life has been so reduced by
“ my unhappy father’s attachment to an
“ unsuccessful cause, which cost both him
“ and my mother their lives, and involved
“ me in such great distress, that I fear my
“ uncle Trew, who condemned my fa-
“ ther’s principles, will think me unwor-
“ thy his notice.”—‘ You are unacquaint-
‘ ed with his disposition,’ returned the
doctor, ‘ if you think it so disingenuous,
‘ as

‘ as to condemn you for your parent’s
 ‘ errors ; or that he would not as rea-
 ‘ dily acknowledge you in a state of in-
 ‘ digence, as affluence, when convinced
 ‘ the reduction of your circumstances
 ‘ cannot be imputed to a defection from
 ‘ virtue.’ “ I hope, Sir, I could make
 “ that clear to him, by an appeal to
 “ many persons of credit, who are per-
 “ fectly acquainted with the transactions
 “ of my life, since my parents demise.”—
 ‘ My dear niece !’ cried the doctor, ‘ I
 ‘ am that uncle you are so desirous of
 ‘ being recommended to ; and I should
 ‘ have recollected your face, little altered
 ‘ by time, had I not received accounts of
 ‘ your death, years since, which made
 ‘ me imagine myself deceived in the re-
 ‘ semblance you bear to a sister, who was
 ‘ dear to me. I must beg a solution of
 ‘ that mystery ; but this is an improper
 ‘ place for farther conference : therefore,
 ‘ if you please, I will attend you to your
 ‘ lady’s house.’ At this proposition, she,
 as succinctly as possible, related what had
 passed since she left her ; and told him her

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intentions of proceeding to Lady Foster's town house, as soon as Miss Prado had regained strength to perform the walk. 'She must not attempt it,' returned he: 'I will take chairs for you both, and see you safe there.' "A thousand thanks, Sir," cried the young lady: "let me but stay long enough to express my gratitude to heaven and you, and rest a few hours there; and then if you would be so humane, as to hire any vehicle to convey me into Kent, I will repay the obligation, and ever retain a grateful remembrance of it; for I cannot think myself safe from my uncle's persecutions in any house so slenderly guarded, as my guardian's is in her absence."—"Alas! Madam, the journey is too long to be undertaken, after your present fatigue: not that I think your remaining in town proper; but Lord ——'s coach, returning empty this evening, is to set me down at my house; whither if you and my niece will accompany me, and accept such sorry entertainment as an old bachelor housekeeper can afford, you shall

' shall be welcome ; and I will write to
 ' Lady Foster, and learn from her how
 ' you are to proceed." This kind offer
 was too agreeable to be rejected : and the
 doctor, having put them into chairs, kept
 pace with them till they reached Argyll
 buildings, where they found only Martha.
 They were but just seated in a parlour,
 when she beckoned Mrs. Orrice out of
 the room ; who going after her into an-
 other, desired to know what she wanted
 with her. " O Mrs. Orrice !" said Martha,
 " what pity is it you did not come a
 " minute sooner ! He is but just gone ; I
 " looked after him, and saw him turn the
 " corner but the moment before your
 " chairs came up ; but he said he would
 " call again in the afternoon."—" Who
 ' has been here ? and what do you mean,
 ' Martha ?"—" Nay, Madam, you need not
 " be so close and precise ; for he is a vast
 " handsome gentleman, with his laced
 " waistcoat, and his gold tassels dangling
 " from his hat. I dare besworn he is a loyal
 " *lover* ; for he told me as sure as fate I
 " should see you before a day to an end ; and

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“ I little forethought his words would
 “ prove true.”—‘ Who was this man ?’—
 “ Aye, Mrs. Orrice, you need not be so
 “ shy ; for I sha’nt say a word about the
 “ matter to nobody : he left a portman-
 “ teau, and a little trunk, that a porter
 “ followed him with, and moreover a
 “ letter for you, and said, he would be
 “ here by-and-by for an answer ; praying
 “ me, if you brought Miss Prado with
 “ you, not to give it you before her.”—
 ‘ And where is this letter, Martha ?’—
 “ Here in my bosom, for I would not
 “ trust it no-where else ; because as how
 “ I do suppose it is full of secrets.”—
 ‘ Give it me directly.’—“ No ; hold, Mrs.
 “ Orrice ; you shall first promise me, if
 “ you do keep a private wedding (as ’tis
 “ like you may, by your bringing a mi-
 “ nister with you) that I shall have a *crum*
 “ of cake drawn *nine times* thro’ the ring,
 “ and a favour.”—‘ Is the wench out of
 ‘ her senses ? prythee have done prating,
 ‘ and give me my letter.’—“ Well, Mrs.
 “ Orrice, you need not be so cross ; there
 “ is the letter ; and behind this shutter
 “ stands

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“stands the trunk.” The moment Mrs. Orrice broke the seal, the impertinent creature, clapping her hands, said, “Do pray, let the favour be *a maiden’s blush*, and the poesy, *As I am fixt, so be you next*; in golden letters, like as they have for Parliament-men.” Mrs. Orrice, to get rid of her, promised what she required; and looking at the trunk, found it was that in which Miss Prado had deposited her trinkets of value: she perceived that the portmanteau and letter were both directed to herself; and in the latter found the following contents:

To Mrs. Orrice,
Madam, Pall-mall, June 7.

MR. Osmond, who has no intentions of defrauding the young woman he *called* his niece, desired I would return her portmanteau, &c. and had not the old bel-dame his mother drove you out of his house, I would have delivered them there; but conjecturing, from your conversation last night, that you would make for Argyll buildings,

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“ I little forethought his words would
 “ prove true.”—‘ Who was this man ?’—
 “ Aye, Mrs. Orrice, you need not be so
 “ shy ; for I sha’nt say a word about the
 “ matter to nobody : he left a portman-
 “ teau, and a little trunk, that a porter
 “ followed him with, and moreover a
 “ letter for you, and said, he would be
 “ here by-and-by for an answer ; praying
 “ me, if you brought Miss Prado with
 “ you, not to give it you before her.”—
 ‘ And where is this letter, Martha ?’—
 “ Here in my bosom, for I would not
 “ trust it no-where else ; because as how
 “ I do suppose it is full of secrets.”—
 ‘ Give it me directly.’—“ No ; hold, Mrs.
 “ Orrice ; you shall first promise me, if
 “ you do keep a private wedding (as ’tis
 “ like you may, by your bringing a mi-
 “ nister with you) that I shall have a *crum*
 “ of cake drawn *nine times* thro’ the ring,
 “ and a favour.”—‘ Is the wench out of
 ‘ her senses ? prythee have done prating,
 ‘ and give me my letter.’—“ Well, Mrs.
 “ Orrice, you need not be so cross ; there
 “ is the letter ; and behind this shutter
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buildings,

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buildings, I send Monsieur Du Sang with them, who has a tendre for you, and is glad to embrace this opportunity of introducing himself. I do assure you, he has the honour to be allied to many of the noblesse in the province of Picardy; but being a cadet, and unwilling to disgrace his ancestors by engaging in any way of trade, he rather chose to attend Mr. Osmond in quality of valet; and his master has such a regard for him, as to promise, whenever he shall be disposed to leave him and marry, to purchase him a genteel post in one of the public offices; and should his proposals meet with your approbation, in consideration of the trouble he has occasioned you, will engage farther to present you with an hundred guineas towards furnishing a house. In the mean time, he begs your acceptance of a bank note, which M. Du Sang has orders to deliver to you. I shall leave him to plead his own cause, and proceed to acquaint you, Mr. Osmond requests no return on your part to his generosity, only hopes, from your gratitude, you will raise

no

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no obstacle to his amour with Miss Prado; who, you must be convinced from Lady Osmond's confession, is not the person she pretends to be. You heard that lady denied all relation between them; and you need but apply to any of his family, to be assured no such people as Mr. Prado and his daughter are allied, or so much as known, to them. You saw she was very fond of her *pretended* uncle, and carried on the deceit, till she became acquainted with Mr. Haws; she then grew cool to Mr. Osmond; and the affliction she was in on the receipt of a fictitious letter which he sent Lady Foster to colour her removal, and which she well knew the meaning of, arose from the necessity it reduced her to, of leaving Haws, or hazarding a detection from Mr. Osmond's jealousy, that would certainly have instigated a discovery of the impostor, drove her with ignominy from her lady, and have frustrated the design upon her nephew. I could be more explicit upon that head, but think these hints sufficient for one of your discernment, who may recollect many incon-

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gruities in her conduct with regard to this affair, and from thence judge of the probability of my assertions.— Mr. Osmond does not attempt imposing on you by specious pretences of romantic virtue; knowing you have seen too much of the world, to credit such from a gay man, who is possessed of strong passions, and an affluent fortune. The young woman in question struck his fancy at Richmond; and he became the dupe of the artifice she there contrived of passing for his niece, till a convenient opportunity offered of leaving Lady Foster without suspicion, and removing to an house preparing for her reception. This was the case when she went into Kent, where the fickleness of her disposition, or the hopes of obtaining Haws for an husband, induced her to jilt him, and occasioned those theatrical airs she played off. You will from hence perceive a connivance with Mr. Osmond's inclinations cannot be prejudicial to your interest, even with your lady, who can never approve of such a match for her nephew; and perhaps, on discovering the
deceit,

deceit, may suppose you an accomplice. If you would merit the favours Mr. Ofmond designs you, you have an easy part to act, that cannot redound to your discredit; since the world will have no room to guess your motives; and, as I have schemed, it shall appear all chance. You are but to prevail with Miss Prado to stay a day or two in town, and attend her to Vauxhall (a place she may be delighted to see) to-morrow evening; where you may separate yourself from her by *accident*; and I will take care some *friend* of Haws's, *you understand me*, shall offer his service to see her safe home. This scheme is concerted merely to avoid a bustle, which might be attended with dangerous consequences, from his passionate desire of regaining the ungrateful fugitive; which he is resolutely determined upon at all events; and bids defiance to every contrivance for her removal out of town; having secured a posse of formidable friends, who are ready to undertake the most desperate attempt in such a cause. Therefore it would be policy in you to
make

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make a merit of voluntarily obliging him, rather than risk the consequence of his exasperated passions, which, I once more assure you, it will be in vain to contend with; and, for your own sake, would recommend a compliance with the softer method I have proposed; which will lay a lasting obligation upon Mr. Osmond, and

Your firm friend,
if you accede to this treaty;

or,

on rejecting it,
Your avowed enemy,

PEREGRINE TRAILER.

CHAP.

C H A P. II.

THE contents of the epistle, inserted in the preceding chapter, so exasperated the faithful Orrice, that she exclaimed, as if she had been within the hearing of the inditer, “ No, infernal monster ! I “ defy you, and your execrable machina- “ tions, thou *avowed enemy* to all good- “ nefs ! may you ever remain *mine* ! I “ hope I have secured a friend, that will “ baffle all your diabolical schemes.” This soliloquy Martha over-hearing, she ran into the room where the doctor and Miss Prado were sitting, and, with an affrighted countenance, cried, “ Madam ! “ Sir ! for goodness sake come to poor “ Mrs. Orrice ; for she is *partainly* dis- “ turbed in her mind, and is talking “ to herself about *dialoguing mackshanes*.” Surprized at this speech, the meaning of which was incomprehensible to them, they both followed her into another room, where they found Mrs. Orrice calmly re- perusing the letter, which she delivered to her

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her uncle, saying to Miss Prado, “ You
 “ will excuse my communicating this pa-
 “ per to the doctor, Madam, as it con-
 “ tains a proposition concerning some af-
 “ fairs relating to myself, of which I want
 “ his opinion.”—“ As you please, dear Or-
 “ rice. I feared, from Martha’s account,
 “ you had heard some bad news, which
 “ had disordered you.”—“ I was a little sur-
 “ prized, Madam, at the sight of a hand
 “ I had no expectation of receiving a line
 “ from.” Finding her speak with such re-
 serve, Miss Prado withdrew, imagining
 she had some private affairs to impart to
 her uncle. The moment she was out of
 hearing, Mrs. Orrice asked him, what he
 thought of the writer of that letter, which
 he was perusing.—“ That he is a con-
 “ summate villain,” answered he. “ But
 “ since the father of liars, we are assured
 “ from Sacred Writ, has sufficient faith to
 “ tremble at an important truth, and does
 “ not always disallow, tho’ he acts against
 “ it; so his emissaries may divulge a
 “ verity, which otherwise had not been
 “ known, when it serves their wicked
 “ purposes.

“ purposes. Of that nature appears to
 “ me the recital he gives of the young
 “ creature you attend : I must own he
 “ has raised such doubts in my mind con-
 “ cerning her, that I must be satisfied in
 “ some particulars, before I give credit
 “ to the story of her alliance with
 “ Mr. Osmond : Was it such as she says,
 “ it is improbable his mother should
 “ treat her as she did ; and since she still
 “ persists in calling him her uncle, if we
 “ find he is not really so, we may reason-
 “ ably suspect the veracity of all she has
 “ vouched. Did you ever hear in what
 “ part of the town Lady Osmond resides ?”
 “ I have heard, in Dover-street, Sir.”—
 “ Then I will wait upon her, and learn
 “ what I can of Miss Prado. In the
 “ mean time I will not trust you with the
 “ simple servant in this house ; but, tho’
 “ Lord ——’s family are out of town,
 “ I can take the liberty of carrying you
 “ thither ; where I can consign you both
 “ to the care of Mrs. Masterfon, my
 “ lord’s house-keeper ; whilst I visit Lady
 “ Osmond, and perform the promise I
 “ have

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“ have made to Miss Prado, of going to
 “ the agent of the regiment her father is
 “ in, to enquire whether he is embarked.
 “ It will be improper to mention any
 “ thing relative to her before Mrs. Ma-
 “ sterson, till her story is cleared up.”—
 “ I hope, Sir, such a sweet innocent crea-
 “ ture, to all appearance, is not an im-
 “ postor.”—“ I hope so too, my dear niece:
 “ but should it so turn out, the sooner she
 “ is detected, the better; and if other-
 “ wise, we cannot be too hasty in rescuing
 “ abused innocence from the aspersions of
 “ guilt.—Had you never any doubt of
 “ her being the person she calls herself?”
 “ Not in the least, Sir, till Lady Os-
 “ mond’s behaviour (who must in that
 “ case have been her grandmother), and
 “ this letter, raised a shadow of one, which
 “ has determined me to put a question to
 “ her, that I never before thought of; and
 “ from her reply you may be able to pass
 “ some judgment upon her.”—“ I shall
 “ suspend my censures,” said he, “ till I
 “ have thoroughly examined into the af-
 “ fair: and now I beg you would go to
 “ her,

“ her, and tell her, I think this house can
 “ be no asylum against Mr. Osmond’s
 “ confederates; and since my lord’s is but
 “ a step from hence, we will walk thither
 “ immediately.” A porter was found by
 Martha, who conveyed their baggage, by
 the doctor’s direction, to a carrier, who
 was to leave it at his house. After he had
 introduced them to Mrs. Masterfon, he
 left them, to prosecute his intentions of
 waiting upon Lady Osmond, and the
 agent. The latter he first called upon,
 and received certain intelligence of Mr.
 Prado’s being failed; but nothing more
 relating to him. In hopes of having the
 perplexed mystery of Mr. Osmond’s and
 his niece’s behaviour unravelled, he bent
 his course next towards Dover-street: and
 inquiring at Lady Osmond’s house for her,
 was answered by the servant, who came to
 the door, that she was at home, but he
 believed too much indisposed to receive
 company. “ I am sorry for that,” returned
 the doctor; “ but my business, I hope,
 “ will not incommode her ladyship, and
 “ may be dispatched in a quarter of an
 “ hour.”

"hour." She, hearing these words from
 an adjacent parlour, sent a maid servant
 to invite him in; and, upon his appear-
 ance, demanded his name and business.
 His answer to the first interrogatory seem-
 ed to startle her; and, in great confusion,
 she repeated the last; but before he could
 reply, she arose from her chair, and was
 going to quit the room, saying, "I leave
 "all transactions of business to my stew-
 "ard, whom I will send to you, Sir."
 The doctor, taking her by the hand, stopt
 her, and said, "I must beg a solution of
 "my doubts from your own mouth, Ma-
 "dam."—"Indeed, Sir," replied she, "I
 "fear I am too weak to talk over matters
 "now; I am sensible I have been much
 "to blame; but I am not the only person
 "who was so; for what I did was in obe-
 "dience to my husband, who was more
 "desirous I should live in grandeur than
 "I was; but, alas! I feel every day more
 "and more, that it is not in the power of
 "riches to heal a wounded mind, which
 "can poison and extinguish every joy."
 The doctor, thinking this speech was dic-
 tated

tated by a vapourish imagination, said,
 ‘ I have nothing to accuse your ladyship
 ‘ of, more than your unkind treatment
 ‘ of your grand-daughter, whom you
 ‘ turned out of doors this morning, and
 ‘ whom I met in the street, in great affliction : and as I find she is a stranger in
 ‘ town, and I am unacquainted with the
 ‘ residence of her family, I came to gain
 ‘ information of it from you.’ The horror which visibly overspread her countenance a moment before, now vanished, and a glow succeeded with these words,
 “ O! the wicked slut!—I know whom
 “ you mean, Sir ; but she is no kindred of
 “ mine, I assure you. Does not she call
 “ her name Prado?”—‘ She does, Madam,
 ‘ and affirms she is niece to your son ; tho’
 ‘ indeed I never heard she stiled you
 ‘ grandmother : and your ladyship’s behaviour to her exciting in my mind a
 ‘ suspicion of her veracity, I came hither
 ‘ for satisfaction ; and must beg to know
 ‘ what children Sir Henry Osmond had ?’
 “ —Two sons, and a daughter, Sir.”
 “ —Was the daughter never married,
 ‘ Madam,

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“ Madam, to the name of Prado?” — “ Not
 “ that ever I heard of, Sir : her husband’s
 “ name was Campri ; and she has passed
 “ her life in foreign parts, and has not
 “ been in England since her father’s death :
 “ and I never heard of the young woman
 “ who has made such a stir about my son,
 “ till within these few days, nor ever set
 “ eyes on her till this morning, when I
 “ had sufficient provocation to turn her
 “ out of my son’s house, which she had
 “ taken possession of ; and she is, by all
 “ accounts, one of the drabs he keeps.”
 “ And is this all the intelligence you
 “ can give me, Madam?” “ Yes, Sir ; if I
 “ were put to my oath, I know no more
 “ of her and her family than the child
 “ unborn ; tho’ I can affirm, neither Sir
 “ Henry, nor myself, had ever a relation of
 “ her name.” The doctor begged her lady-
 ship to excuse the trouble of this visit,
 and departed. — On his return to the
 Earl’s, he acquainted Miss Prado with
 the information he had obtained from the
 agent ; then took Mrs. Orrice aside, and
 related what had passed between Lady
 Osmond

Osmond and him. "Indeed, Sir," said she, "I do not know what to think of Miss Prado: for whilst you were gone, I asked her, what her grand-mamma could mean by calling her an impostor? She answered," "Lady Osmond might think me so, as she is ignorant of the relation between us. But pray, Mrs. Orrice, has Mr. Osmond made any discovery concerning me?"—"There is, I fear," returned the doctor, "something wrong in her conduct; and yet I am loth to believe so modest an aspect, and such exterior tokens of a good heart, should inmask vice and hypocrisy. I must have my query too: let us join her." So saying, they returned to the room, where they had left her with Mrs. Master-son, who told the doctor, that his lordship had left orders for the coach to be ready at any hour he pleased to appoint. Upon which he fixed five in the evening; and whilst she went to inform the servants, he took the opportunity of her absence to ask Miss Prado, whether she derived her affinity to Mr. Osmond from
her

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her father or her mother? She, not suspecting the drift of the question, answered, ‘ From my father, Sir.’—“ Lady
 “ Osmond then had him by a former
 “ husband, Madam.”—‘ No, Sir; but Mr.
 “ Osmond and my father are brothers.’—
 “ Well, Miss *Prado*,” pursued he (pronouncing the name with an emphasis),
 “ you have, doubtless, your reasons for
 “ this reserve, and may think me impertinently curious : I will therefore drop
 “ this subject.” She, apprehensive, from the manner in which these words were delivered, that he was offended, could not restrain her tears, which flowed when she said, ‘ I am persuaded, good Sir, that
 “ your motives are laudable, and merit
 “ an unreserved return ; but your inquiries reduce me to the disagreeable dilemma of infringing the commands of
 “ my parent, or appearing ungrateful to
 “ you ; either of which would give me
 “ extreme compunction ; for I have a
 “ grateful sense of my obligations both to
 “ you and Mrs. Orrice, and should be
 “ grieved to forfeit your esteem. If ever
 “ I am

“ I am so happy to be restored to my
 “ kind guardian, I will desire her to ex-
 “ plain what I am not at liberty to do,
 “ without consulting her: in the mean
 “ time, I must intreat you to judge fa-
 “ vourably of my silence.” The appear-
 ance of Mrs. Masterfon, and dinner, pre-
 vented her from adding more. At the
 hour appointed, they set out in the
 coach; and the doctor carried on an
 agreeable conversation on general topics,
 till they arrived at a neat compact house,
 where they alighted, and were met in
 the hall by an old gentlewoman; to whom
 the doctor, presenting his guest, said, “ I
 “ must beg, Mrs. Curtis, you would give
 “ orders for the accommodation of these
 “ strangers; one of them is that niece,
 “ whose loss you have frequently heard
 “ me lament.”—“ Tho’ my eyes are bad,
 “ Sir,” returned she, “ I think I discern a
 “ resemblance of your sister’s face in this
 “ lady’s;” looking at Mrs. Orrice.—“ You
 “ have pitched upon the right person,
 “ Madam. My dear Jem,” taking his
 niece’s hand, and leading her up to Mrs.

Curtis, "This good friend had a sincere
"regard for your mother, and will, I
"dare say, respect you. She is so kind
"to take the care of my little family
"upon her; and you will find, in her ex-
"emplary conduct, and improving con-
"versation, that a steady piety is the se-
"curest shield against the keen arrows of
"adversity."—"You must, Madam," re-
turned Mrs. Curtis, "impute these kind
"expressions of the best of human beings,
"to the clearness of his good heart re-
"flecting its own virtues on those it com-
"passionates, rather than to any desert of
"mine. I truly rejoice to find you liv-
"ing, after the many reports spread of
"your decease; and am impatient to
"know how such a rumour came to be
"propagated. But here is another lady,
"to whom I would pay my respects."—
"This lady is a ward of Lady Foster's,"
said the doctor, "whom my niece at pre-
"sent attends." Mrs. Orrice, perceiving
she looked extremely dejected, and was
scarce able to return Mrs. Curtis's saluta-
tion, proposed to her retiring, and en-
deavouring

deavouring to repose herself till supper. This proposal was accepted with thanks, and she was conducted into a bed-chamber, and left to compose herself. Mrs. Curtis being soon after called away by domestic affairs, Mrs. Orrice again asked the doctor's sentiments of the lady above-
 "stairs: "I propose," answered he,
 "writing to Lady Foster, and, after her
 "reply, shall not scruple to reveal them."
 "—I think, Sir, she made an evasive an-
 "swer to our questions."—"She did, in-
 "deed; but we will hope and think the
 "best of her motives for so doing: and
 "if they should prove faulty, we are
 "justifiable in suppressing censorious sug-
 "gestions against a conduct, the mean-
 "ing of which is dubious."—"But, Sir,
 "if she should prove to be a bad woman,
 "how will you act?"—"I shall endeavour,
 "by gentle remonstrances, to convince
 "her of her error, and exhort her to a
 "reformation."—"Sure, Sir, you would
 "discard a woman who bears a light cha-
 "racter, the moment you were certain she
 "deserved it."—"Suppose, my dear Jem,

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“ Providence should throw you in the
 “ way of an utter stranger, whose cha-
 “ racter was unknown to you, and who
 “ languished under a desperate disease,
 “ for which you had in your possession an
 “ infallible prescription; would it not be
 “ an inexcusable omission in you to suffer
 “ the patient to be lost, by your neglect-
 “ ing to communicate the remedy?”—
 “ I should be wanting in my duty, if I did,
 “ Sir.”—“ True! it follows then, as vice
 “ is a malady of the soul, attended with
 “ more malignant qualities than any that
 “ can affect the body, we ought to be ex-
 “ tremely vigilant in our endeavours to
 “ extirpate it; which I apprehend to be
 “ much more easily and safely effected by
 “ lenient than corrosive medicines. Miss
 “ Prado is very young, and may possibly
 “ have been seduced from the paths of
 “ virtue, and yet be willing to return to
 “ them, as appears from her rejection of
 “ Mr. Osmond’s proposals: we should
 “ therefore use every means to strengthen
 “ her against a relapse, rather than by se-
 “ verity terrify her into a despondency,
 “ which

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“ which may fix her in a criminal state ;
“ and I am determined, whatever shall
“ be the event, to perform my duty ; and,
“ till she absolutely declines my advice,
“ she shall not be rejected by me. But,
“ my dear, you have not yet informed me
“ how you came to be degraded to your
“ present situation, nor what could induce
“ your guardian to send me that false ac-
“ count of your death.” “ I am ready, Sir,
“ to give you the narrative of my life ;
“ but as Mrs. Curtis has obligingly ex-
“ pressed a desire of the like information,
“ if you please, you shall hear the detail
“ in her presence.” Upon this, the doctor
sent to desire Mrs. Curtis would join
their company, and Mrs. Orrice proceed-
ed to the recital given in the subsequent
chapter.

CHAP. III.

I Might confine my recital, Sir, for your own satisfaction, to events that have happened within twelve years; but for the information of Mrs. Curtis, I must begin higher; and acquaint her, my father was a gentleman of no vulgar extraction, and, at the period I was born, resided on a small paternal estate in the north of England. Being an only child, I was treated by both parents with a partiality too usual in that case; and their fondness made them reluctantly follow the advice of other friends in fixing me at a boarding-school in York; where after passing some years, I obtained a promise of returning home at the Christmas following, to remain with them. The fatal rebellion broke out in Scotland some months preceding that time, which I was too young to be any-ways affected by; and my thoughts were engrossed by the agreeable prospect of passing my future days with my indulgent parents; to please whom,

whom, I had employed my leisure hours in working a piece of furniture, which I had but just concluded, and was surveying with great satisfaction, my imagination anticipating the applause I should receive at so surprizing and unexpected a proof of my diligence; when one of the teachers called me down-stairs, and told me, my papa was in the little parlour, and desired to see me. This welcome intelligence carried me speedily into that room; where perceiving a man very shabbily accoutred, sitting with his back to the door, leaning on a table in a pensive position, I concluded I was wrong, and ran into the entry, crying, "Where is my dear papa?" This exclamation roused him from the reverie he appeared to be in; and he followed and brought me back, unbuttoned the cape of an old furtout, that concealed his countenance, pale and dejected, saying, "My dear child, don't you know me?"—"Yes, my dear Sir," answered I, "now I do; but what is the meaning of this strange dress?—How does my mamma? Are you come to fetch me

“home before the holidays?”——Your
 “mamma,” replied he, sighing, “is, I
 “hope, very happy : your governess will
 “give you an account of her.”——“Sure,
 “Sir,” cried I, “you intend I shall be with
 “her at Christmas !”——“My dear Jem,”
 returned he, “be content with an assur-
 “ance, that in every action relative to
 “you, I have consulted your benefit, ever
 “since Heaven blessed me with you ; and
 “do not ask my reasons for judging it
 “necessary you should remain here some
 “time longer : your mamma would think
 “so, if”——Here he burst into tears—
 “I am going a long journey, and the
 “time of my return is uncertain : I came
 “therefore to bid you farewell. I may
 “never, perhaps——” His tears now flow-
 ing so fast as to obstruct the passage of
 his words, alarmed me ; and I cried out,
 “What do you mean, my dear Sir, by
 “*never* ? you seem to be very ill ; let me
 “call Mrs. Discipline, and get you some
 “drops and water.” He made no reply,
 but continued weeping with his arms
 round my neck. I sprang from him, con-
 cluding

cluding him very ill; and was going to touch a bell, in order to procure him assistance, when he arose, and, catching my hand, prevented me, saying, he was not in the least indisposed, and his tears proceeded from joy, at seeing me so improved; hoped I would retain the acquisitions I had made under Mrs. Discipline's tuition, and that Heaven would bless me, if we never met in this world again. "Sure, " Sir," said I, "you would not continue " to talk in this mournful strain, if something extraordinary was not the matter; " I fear you are not well."--"I am in health " at present, my dear child," returned he; "but you have been told, tho' you " have not passed years enough in the " world, to know by experience the uncertain tenure on which our lives depend, and the multitude of casualties " to which every individual is liable. I " would therefore guard you against surprise, if any should happen to affect " you nearly: but I find myself unable " to expatiate on this theme, which I " leave to your governess; nor can I trust

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“myself longer with you.” So saying, he kissed me, and hastily flew out of the house, leaving me in the utmost consternation and anxiety. My governess immediately appearing, I urged her to reveal the occasion of his abrupt departure: when she very tenderly informed me of the loss I had sustained in my mother, who died of convulsion fits two days before; and that my father, incapable of communicating the melancholy intelligence to me, had requested her to do it at his departure. This news affected me deeply; yet I wished I had received it before my papa left me, thinking I might have dissuaded him from undertaking the journey he mentioned, lest any accident should befall him in it. I was so uneasy on this account, that my governess dispatched a messenger with a letter to his house, acquainting him with my apprehensions and affliction. The messenger returned with an account of my father’s leaving his house the evening after my mother’s decease, and the servants knew not whither he was gone; but said, Mr. Frazer

Frazer had the management of the funeral, and the whole care of his affairs in his absence. This Mr. Frazer was a man of substance and subtilty, bore a plausible character, and was very intimate in our family from my birth: he wrote both to Mrs. Discipline and me, expressing great concern for my loss, and friendship to my father and me. I continued very low-spirited till the second week in May, having heard nothing of my parent in all that time, when Mr. Frazer came to my school, and discharged my expences there, and took me home with him to reside (as he said) with my friends. I was not displeased with this motion, but was very inquisitive after my father; was he returned? and in what state of health? was I to keep his house: and many more questions I put to him, who made no other reply, than "You will know all, Miss Jem, when you get home." Perceiving, on our entering the village, that we left the road leading to our house, and drove towards Mr. Frazer's, I asked him, if my papa was there? "Jem," replied

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he, "I will be your friend, if you behave properly; but I harbour no rebels." Amazed at this reply, I cried, 'Is my dear papa a rebel?'—"He *was*," answered he, "but is no more."—"Good Heaven," said I, "is he not living?"—"No," replied he. This abrupt answer threw me into a swoon; and when I recovered from it, I found myself in an easy chair, and Mrs. Frazer, who had deservedly the character of one of the best of women, applying spirits to my temples. From her I learned, that my unhappy father, some weeks preceding my mother's death, had formed a design of joining the rebel army; and that she, being acquainted with it, had used every persuasive argument to induce him to desist from his dangerous purpose, but had found them ineffectual. The vexation of her mind, at his infatuation, had brought on those fits, which ended her life: that my father, who appeared half frantic at her death, deserted his house, and put his design in execution at Derby, from whence he marched into Scotland, and was killed at the battle of Culloden.

Culloden. This afflicting intelligence rendered me too much indisposed to hear more at that time. Next day Mr. Frazer told me, that my father, before he set out on his fatal expedition, had made over to him his estate and effects, lest he should be taken prisoner. He then asked me, if I was not qualified to attend upon an old lady of his acquaintance, who wanted a young person that could work at her needle, and read to her? So unexpected a question startled me; and I answered, my fortune must be such as to set me above that sphere in life: He told me it would not: “Your father’s necessitous
 “circumstances drove him into the ac-
 “tion, in which he lost his life: I am in
 “possession, by a deed of gift, of all he
 “was worth; and as I know his desire
 “was to secure something for you, in
 “case of his captivity, or death, you shall
 “have what remains after his legal debts
 “are discharged; but that sum will not
 “be sufficient to support you two years.”
 ‘I thought,’ said I, ‘my father’s real
 ‘estate was three hundred pounds a year:
 ‘Who

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‘ Who is to have that ? ’ — “ It was so,” returned he, “ but it is mortgaged for its full value to me, who furnished him with money, which he expended in the cause he died in : and I am not the only creditor. You must therefore think of service.” My little (I should rather say my proud) heart swelled at this, and vented itself in a shower of tears; which subsiding, I desired he would represent my case to you, who was then abroad; and if you thought there was a necessity for my entering into such employment, I would endeavour to reconcile myself to it. He, shaking his head, said, he would do so; but there was little probability you would concern yourself about the child of parents, whose principles had disgusted you: adding, my mother had disobliged you, by consenting to give up her jointure to her husband’s disposition, in opposition to your advice. I begged to know what he imagined would fall to my share, after the debts were paid. He answered, twenty or thirty pounds, perhaps; but he would give me my board, till

till I heard from you ; and your reply was to determine my fate. I impatiently expected your letter, employing myself in all the offices of the family, which my years permitted me to perform, without receiving any thanks from the master of it ; but his wife, whom he treated in the most churlish manner, was as kind as she dared be to me, and never willingly put me to harder work than I had been accustomed to perform. One day he came into the laundry, where I was, according to his order, starching some linen, with a contracted brow, and a letter in his hand. —“ Well,” said he, “ your uncle has at last vouchsafed to write, and I was not mistaken in my opinion of him. He take care of you ! no, no, child ; let a parson alone for that : they may preach up charity, and what not ; but I know none of them who have any to bestow. Here he says, your father’s crime ought to be punished in succeeding generations ; and he will not oppose the will of heaven, who chastizes him in you.—Makes me a compliment for the trouble

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“trouble I have been at on your account,
 “and desires for the future, that I would
 “give him none about your affairs.”—
 “Could my good uncle Trew say such
 “unkind things?” cried I: “pray let me
 “peruse the letter; for I think, Sir, you
 “must be mistaken.”—“That is, in plain
 “English, I lie: but since such a pert
 “chit presumes to question my veracity,
 “I shall wash my hands of you, and pack
 “you off next week for London.” Af-
 frightened at this threat, and supposing you
 were really too much displeased to concern
 yourself with my affairs, and that if Mr.
 Frazer abandoned me, I should be thrown
 destitute into the world, without hope of
 compassion or relief from it (for by this
 time the occasion of my father’s death was
 well known, and his former acquaintance
 grew cool to me, and many apologized
 for not receiving me into their houses,
 lest they should be suspected of disaffec-
 tion to our establishment); thus deserted,
 oppressed, and full of apprehensive fears,
 I thought it behoved me to keep well with
 him, whom my father had appointed my
 guardian.

guardian. After many deep-fetch'd sighs, innumerable tears, and a hard struggle with my heart, I told him, since service must be my lot, it would be more agreeable to me to enter into it at a distance from that neighbourhood. He answered, in that I was perfectly in the right; and that he expected a sister of his from London every day, who should carry me back with her, and seek out a suitable place for me. "But," continued he, "my wife
"and she having had a difference some
"years ago, she made a resolution never
"to set her foot into this house; so we
"must meet her at the post town, where
"she comes once in two years to see me." When I had finished my present employ, I was informed by the servants, that Mrs. Frazer was gone to visit a sick relation some miles off, and not expected home for some days. Next morning, my guardian carried me to visit his sister, being apprized of her arrival; who received me very graciously, and bestowed so many encomiums on my person, and treated me with such affability and tenderness,

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derness, that my heart leaped with joy at the prospect of passing my days under her care: For at her brother's first mention of his intentions with regard to me, she declared she would take me into her own family, where I should be provided with all the necessaries of life, and have no harder employment than working at my needle, or reading to her, in her chamber. I returned to Mr. Frazer's house that night, and by his order very cheerfully packed up my cloaths; and tho' it gave me concern to leave the place without having an opportunity of bidding farewell to his good wife; yet, as he told me that was impracticable, I obeyed his orders, and attended him the following day to the town where his sister expected us; to whom, in my presence, he delivered thirty guineas, which he said was my full due; but as I was too young to be intrusted with that sum, she was to manage it for me, and supply me with money, as occasion required. He gave me a guinea, out of his own generosity, as he said, for pocket money. She caressed me with such
endearing

endearing fondness, calling me her sweet child, and assuring me, if I behaved well, I should want for nothing under her roof, that I was ready to worship my guardian, for consigning me to her care, and with thanks bid him adieu; when he put us into a stage coach, which in due time brought us to town, and a hackney one conveyed us to a large handsome house, where we were welcomed by several fine young ladies; who, she informed me, were her boarders. The fatigue of the journey made me incapable of remarking the exact number of the persons, or the manner of the family that night; and next day the old lady carried me in a coach to view several curiosities in the metropolis, and laid out some money in spruce cloaths, giving orders for alterations in those I had brought with me; saying, I was no longer a child, and should be habited according to my years. All this was very agreeable to me, who had just attained to my sixteenth year; but, being little of stature, had been kept in the childish dress. I passed that whole day without
seeing

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seeing any of the family but herself, and one female servant, and lay in a closet, which had a communication with her bed-chamber. I went to bed so weary those two nights, that I had no curiosity to take a survey of my small apartment; but the following morning I perceived a little window, and on casting my eyes out of it into a stone yard, was extremely astonished, to discern some of the fine ladies, our lodgers, without stays, and as ragged and dirty as the poorest wretch that asks an alms, their bloom vanished, and some of them as miserable objects as imagination can form an idea of, employed in washing white gowns and stockings. Their conversation was a mixture of such execrations and ribaldry, as never before had reached my ears. Shocked at this scene, the meaning of which I could not comprehend, I went into my mistress's chamber, to relate to her what I had seen; but she was not there. A knocking at the street door, that instant, induced me to look out of her window, which was in the front of the house; but, perceiving the
noise

noise proceeded from a milk-woman, who served the family, I was withdrawing my head, when a loud crack of a whip made me once more look out, and discover Mr. Burkit, a tradesman, who resided in the village from whence I came. The moment that he caught my eye, he beckoned me, pointing to the door; and by his gestures made me sensible that he wanted to speak with me. I flew down stairs, and gained the door at the instant a servant opened it to take in the milk. She, seeing me behind her, would have immediately shut it; but Mr. Burkit rushed in, and pushing her down, caught my hand, and drew me into the street, notwithstanding the resistance I made; for I struggled hard to get from him, and he kept pulling me along, till we turned the corner of the street, where he put me into a hackney coach, telling me, he had rescued me from imminent danger. I, not having the least suspicion of any in that fine house and company, gave a loose to my silent tears, till we reached a linen-draper's shop, where we alighted, and I was conveyed into the house.

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house. "Now Miss Orrice," said Mr. Burkit, "be pleased to read this letter, "which will account for the step I have "taken." The contents are so deeply imprinted on my memory, that I can repeat them verbatim; but will shew you the originals, when I can get them from Lady Foster's. When I opened the cover, addressed to me, I found these words.

Dear Miss Orrice,

I Am extremely concerned you concealed from me your intentions of leaving my house; for I should have endeavoured to prevent your taking so dangerous a step, tho' I was at that time ignorant of the detestable scheme, which the inclosed conveyed to my knowledge by mere accident, at my return from my cousin Johnson's. Providentially Mr. Frazer was absent; and Mr. Burkit called upon me soon after I found it; who informing me he was to set out for London to-morrow, I so far intrusted him with the secret, that you were decoyed from hence by a procuress, who lived in — street, and desired him,
if

if possible, to get you from her. You are well acquainted with the goodness of his character, and, therefore, I hope will follow any advice he shall bestow upon you, if he should be able to effect your removal from that infamous house. I conjure you, as you regard my peace of mind, to conceal from whom you receive this intelligence, as it can do you no harm, and may me, if it ever reaches the ears of him, to whom it is my misfortune to be united. I shall impatiently wait Mr. Burkit's return with an account of your safety, which would amply compensate for the anxiety that at present oppresses the heart of,

Your sincere, and
truly affectionate, friend,

MARGARET FRAZER.

The inclosed was so imperfectly spelt, that with great difficulty I made out the sense.

To

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To Simon Frazer, Esq;

Dear Brother,

I Give you joy of your success: if he had not been killed, you could have informed, and that would have been something handsome in your way; but it is better as it is, for now you have all, at least you may have, if you are not squeamish. As to what I mentioned in my last, to rid you of the only bar, I would have sent it; but, since the girl is tolerably handsome, her life would turn to better account. So I will come and fetch her here; for fresh faces are wanting, and the town will be glad of her, and I will take care she shall not be any more troublesome to you. And to make all sure, after she has left you a week, or so, it will not be difficult for me to send you a certificate of her death.—But no more, till we meet at the old place, from,

Your loving sister,——

The

The contents of these epistles so astonished me, that I had not power to return thanks to Mr. Burkit. Mr. Ellmore, into whose house he had carried me, having been frequently in the north upon business, was no stranger to my parents: Mr. Burkit, therefore, acquainted him with their unhappy end;—the barbarity of my guardian, and the indigence of my circumstances, which he imputed to my father's attachment to that cause, in which every body believed he had expended his substance. “I will willingly,” continued this good man, “defray the expences of
 “her board, if you will permit her to
 “remain in your family, till she can be
 “fixed in some way to get her bread; and
 “as she is rather too young for a service,
 “I would, if she approves it, bind her
 “apprentice to a sempstress. I have ten
 “guineas, which a friend of her's gave
 “me for her use; and if that sum is in-
 “sufficient, will readily advance more.”
 —‘Dear Mr. Burkit,’ cried I, ‘what
 ‘friend can that be?’—“The very same,
 “from whom I gave you the letter just

“now,” answered he.—“I fear,” said I,
“shall never be able to repay her; but
“if you will kindly bind me to the busi-
“ness you have mentioned, I will work
“my fingers to the bone, at odd times,
“till I can scrape up something to return
“for it; for I very well know she could
“not part with such a sum, without deny-
“ing herself some necessaries; her husband
“always exacting an account of what
“money he intrusted her with.”—“How-
“ever she procured it,” returned he, “it
“is yours; and she requires no return,
“but prudent conduct and diligence, to-
“wards obtaining a support.”—Mr. Ell-
more very kindly received me into his fa-
mily, on conditions agreed upon between
themselves; and within a month I was fixed
with a sempstress, and advised by them both
to conceal my parents unhappy fate; and if
ever I was questioned about my family, to
answer, my parents left less for my main-
tenance than it required, or I expected
from my education; and refer all such en-
quiries to Mr. Ellmore. They both ear-
nestly exhorted me to conceal myself, as
much as possible, from the sight of any
person,

person, who might transmit intelligence of me to my vile guardian and his sister. —This advice I complied punctually with, and always desired to work in a backward room. I had the satisfaction to please my mistress, who, at the expiration of my apprenticeship, took me into partnership with her, and in that way of life I passed nine years; in all which time I never spent an hour out of her house, but on sundays, when I constantly dined at Mr. Ellmore's, and attended divine service with his family.—Mr. Burkit visited me several times in those years. About four years since he took his leave of me for ever, saying, his age (for he was past his grand climacteric) and infirmities, which grew upon him, would not permit his attempting such a journey, during the remainder of his life, but he would still be my friend: and, observing my sedentary life disagreed with my constitution (for I had then a hectic cough, and every symptom of a consumption) he earnestly advised me to seek out a reputable service, where I might have the liberty of taking more air and

D 2

exercise,

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exercise, and not be obliged to so intense an application to my needle. I could not refrain from tears at the thought of this being the last interview I should have with so valued a friend; and he gave me occasion to shed more, which were but the due tribute to the memory of good Mrs. Frazer, who, he told me, had paid the last debt to nature; and, as it was reported, died of a broken heart. At his departure he presented me with five guineas, and advice, worth five thousand, to guard me against the snares of the designing world. I had long found my way of life prejudicial to my health, but was unwilling to separate from my partner. However, Mr. Burkit's opinion had such weight with me, that I now mentioned it to her; and she, hearing Lady Foster, for whom she had worked many years, wanted a servant at that time to attend upon her person, recommended me to her. Her Ladyship accepted me, from her report of my character, corroborated by Mr. Ellmore's. I have lived with her ever since; and, from the recital of my misfortunes, finding I
had

had been in more prosperous circumstances, she has treated me with the lenity and indulgence of a friend, rather than as a menial attendant.—“ My dear,” said the doctor, “ when you were so happily settled with her, I am surprised you did not find means to inform me of it. You had heard of the noble family to whom I was attached; and, by an application to any part of it, could have procured my address.”—“ Alas! Sir, that unkind letter my guardian received from you, deterred me from seeking you; and I avoided making any mention of you to my lady, fearing she might apprehend some flagrant enormity in my conduct had induced you to desert me.”—“ I never did desert you, my dear niece; nor did I write any such letter to your guardian, or receive any from him, till November, 1746, at Rome, in which he related the manner of your parents death, and gave a formal account of yours, which, he said, happened on the tenth of August, at London, whither you went to reside with his sister, whom he men-

tioned by name, and inclosed certificates of decease, signed by the physician and surgeon who attended you, and declared all possible means had been used for your recovery; together with a copy of the deed your father had given him, by which he made over his whole estate real and personal, in trust to him, for you: when you came of age, you were then to pay him an annuity of fifty pounds a year, during his life; but, in case you died in your minority, the whole estate was to be his and his heirs for ever. I had not the least suspicion of any fraud in the affair; yet I wrote to the physician and surgeon, who had signed the certificate, and received for answer, that the former was dead, and the latter gone abroad with our forces. Since my return I sought the sister of Frazer, who is gone to render an account of her ill-spent life; consequently I could gain no intelligence from thence; but, from the vile character she bore, I was rather inclined to rejoice you were so soon released from her power,

“ power, than to lament your untimely
 “ end.—Now, my dear, all proper mea-
 “ sures shall be pursued to procure you
 “ justice, and, if possible, instate you in
 “ your right, which will set you in your
 “ proper station; but if we should not
 “ be able to accomplish that, my fortune
 “ is sufficient to support you and me in an
 “ easy manner during my life, and to set
 “ you above want at my decease; and I
 “ doubt not but your good Lady will rea-
 “ dily consent to your leaving her service,
 “ for a residence with me. I will write to
 “ her to-morrow.”—‘ You are very kind,
 ‘ Sir,’ said the niece; ‘ and, if you please,
 ‘ I should be glad you would inform her
 ‘ ladyship, that I am ready to attend
 ‘ her, till she can fix upon a suitable per-
 ‘ son to succeed to my place.—Supper
 appearing, Miss Prado was summoned; and
 the doctor acquainting her with his inten-
 tions of writing into Kent, they separated
 for that night, in which she and Mrs. Or-
 rice enjoyed a repose unknown to them
 before, ever since they left *The Willows*.

C H A P. IV.

ON the Tuesday, Doctor Trew and Miss Prado dispatched these letters.

To Lady Foster.

—Parsonage,

Madam,

June 7, 1757.

THE occasion of this epistle will, I hope, plead my excuse for introducing myself to your acquaintance; since it is to inform your ladyship of Miss Prado's and my niece's deliverance from a vile attempt to seduce them from your protection, if their intelligence is authentic. They are now under my care, who would willingly do any thing in my power towards protecting your ward from further violence, and restoring her to you, whenever you please to require her return. In the mean time, it would be doing me great honour, if you would so far confide in me, as to communicate what has come to your knowledge in relation to her family; the reserve which she observes in that respect, having given rise

rise to conjectures prejudicial to her veracity. Was there not an absolute necessity for speedily clearing up this point, I should apologize for so abrupt a request; but, as I hope my character, which is easy to be enquired into, can afford no suspicion of a sinister view in making it; so, I assure you, Madam, my sole intent is to be able to refute censure, and rescue innocence from the aspersions of guilt. My niece, who is writing, will give you the particulars of our accidental meeting; and with the utmost gratitude for the kind treatment you honoured her with, during her attendance on you, I must desire, when you can procure a proper person to succeed her, you will permit me to take her into my family, and place her in that state of life from which she has been unjustly thrown, and you will confer a lasting obligation upon,

Madam,

Your Ladyship's

most grateful,

and obedient servant,

JOHN TREW.

D 5

To

To Lady Foster,

—Parsonage,

June 7, 1757.

TIME will not permit me, my dear lady, to give a circumstantial detail of all that has befallen me, since I was decoyed from you by the vilest of mankind. But, as I conjecture, Mr. Haws's arrival without me, and the representation he must make of the situation in which he found me, has alarmed you, I have now the satisfaction to inform you of my providential escape from the wicked associate of my uncle, with whom he left me, and am at present under the roof and protection of a worthy divine, who has promised to write to your ladyship with this. Though I have experienced the utmost humanity from this gentleman, I can perceive that part of my story, which, by the manner of his commencing an acquaintance with me, could not be concealed from him, has raised scruples in his mind, which I must beg you to solve, by an explicit account of my birth and family.

family. I am certain, if my dear father, who was ever an enemy to deceit, could have suspected the consequences of that he used with regard to our name, he would have suffered any mortification that might have arisen from strictly adhering to truth; the least deviation from which, though with no illaudable view, I am fatally convinced, is sure to draw down an adequate degree of chastisement. I have suffered not only from *that* mistake of his, but from an imprudent reserve, in regard to your ladyship, whom I ought to have acquainted with my uncle's conversation, whilst you were sleeping, at the inn where we dined on our Kentish journey: not that it could have conveyed any suspicion of his villainous design; but, as the tendency of it was to lessen my regard for you, who were my best friend, I am convinced it was my duty to have related it to you. The manner in which I replied to his discourse, and the offence it gave me, could afford him no hopes of success in such an attempt: and he appeared so sensibly concerned for what he had said, and

assured me they were not his own sentiments, but those of others he had met with, that I, after mentioning them in a letter to my father, thought no more of the matter; but I shall for the future suspect the heart of that man to be faulty, which can dictate sentiments of that nature, and of every young person, who can be tamely instigated to swerve from the duty due to those relations, or friends, whom Providence has appointed for their guides; who are *generally* endowed with superior judgment, and *always* with more experience, than it is possible youth can have. The affliction I have endured, in consequence of my error and my father's, has some alleviation, from the reflection that they have been the means of restoring Mrs. Orrice to a worthy relation, who appears to have both the capacity and inclination to place her in an independent happy situation for the remainder of her days. I have likewise the pleasurable assurance of my dear father's safety, and that he is on his voyage. I esteem myself no less indebted to Mr. Haws's good intentions

tentions of escorting me into Kent, than if he had executed them; since the deception, which was doubtless put upon him, might have succeeded with a person more acquainted with the world than he has been. Be pleased to make a tender of my compliments and acknowledgments to Mrs. Foster, for the civilities I received in her hospitable mansion, to which I am ready to return at an hour's notice from your ladyship: but as my spirits are much fatigued, and good doctor Trew has kindly given me an invitation to remain here till they are recruited, if it is agreeable to you, I would accept his offer, and write daily to my dearest guardian; and, if she will favour me with her advice concerning my future conduct, it shall be punctually observed by,

My dear Lady,

Your most affectionate,
and obedient ward,

P. OSMOND.

(For so I desire I may be called for the future).

By

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By the return of the messenger, the doctor and young lady received these answers.

To the Reverend Doctor Trew.

Reverend Sir,

The Willows,

June 9, 1757.

THOUGH I have hitherto remained a stranger to your person, and the affinity between you and my good Orrice, I am not so to your name or character, which afford me the satisfactory assurance, that my prayers for the safety of my dear charge, and your dear niece, were heard, since Providence has raised them up such a protector. There required no apology for the request you make, from motives becoming your profession; and I answer it in the inclosed sheets, which contain a detail of Sir Henry Osmond's life, as I received it from his own mouth, and which I am very certain may be depended upon as fact. I refer you to Miss *Osmond* (that is really my ward's name), for an account of what has passed since her father's departure; in which you will find how
her

her acquaintance with her uncle commenced, and the consequences of it.—I cannot sufficiently express my admiration of your conduct to the poor young creature, whilst under the suspicion of a vile imposture: it was indeed adhering strictly to the precepts of that religion, which it is evident you *practise*, as well as preach. May the omnipotent Being, whose delegate you are, continue to you the power, together with the will, to perform such meritorious acts of humanity!—I congratulate you on the recovery of your niece, whom I can venture to pronounce deserving every mark of your esteem, and with pleasure resign her to a more fortunate situation than I could place her in: and shall ever gladly receive her as a visitant for any time that is agreeable to her, but never more shall she enter my family in a menial character. I beg therefore she would not think of putting herself to any inconvenience upon my account: Mrs. Horton's daughter, who has supplied her place during her absence, suits me very well, and shall be continued in it. As
you

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you have obligingly offered Miss Osmond an asylum in your family for the present, and that I am now in is in some confusion, her continuance with you a little while, will be doing us both a favour; and I shall expect the pleasure of your and Mrs. Orrice's company, when she returns to,

SIR,

Your greatly obliged, and
very humble servant,
MATILDA FOSTER.

To Miss Osmond.

The Willows, June 9.

YOUR letter, my dear, gave me infinite satisfaction, and relieved me from the anxiety I have suffered ever since Sunday; nay, I may say, ever since this day se'ennight, when your uncle's villainous scheme was discovered to me by an accident, which I have not time to relate. You have anticipated what I should have remonstrated to you. As to Sir Henry's mistake, though his meaning was innocent, I shudder at the fatal consequences
which

which that *trivial* deception, as it appeared, might have occasioned. Never suffer yourself, my dear, to be allured by any temptation to swerve from the truth. I wish you had been less reserved to me, as to the subject of the conversation you mention; had I been acquainted with it, much uneasiness would have been avoided; but as you seem so sensible of your error, I will say no more of it. I beg you would confide in the worthy gentleman, who now honours you with his protection, to whom I have given a relation of Sir Henry's life to the time of his departure from the Grainge, and you must inform him of what has since passed. On Tuesday I was summoned to Maidstone, upon an affair of some importance; by which accident I missed an interview with Sir John Emlin, who intended me the favour of a visit; and the servants, either from ignorance, or stupidity, never told him whether I was gone. My absence gave me no small vexation; and my sister added to it, by an apology for not inviting him into the house; saying, "She thought it
 " a breach

" a breach of decorum to grant a private
 " audience to a gentleman, and a stranger,
 " in her dressing-room, at so early an
 " hour." I wish she had been less ceremonious, as I conjectured he brought intelligence of you: but from your making no mention of him, I may be mistaken. Colonel L—— has sent a card from Rochester, acquainting me with his intentions of dining here to-morrow. I shall receive him, tho' the family is in great confusion on Miss Jay's account, who desired to go with me two miles on Tuesday morning, for the pleasure of walking back with her maid, having within these few days appeared very fond of that exercise. Humphry had orders to attend them, and did so, till they came near a farm-house, into which she and Traverse went, under pretence of drinking warm milk, and Humphry waited their return at the gate more than an hour: when he asked a ploughman, who came out of the house, if the lady was not coming? The fellow replied, " The gentlewomen that came in there
 " did not stay two minutes; but went
 " through

“ through a barn that led into another
 “ road, where a ’squire, all bedaubed
 “ with gold, and another gentleman, wait-
 “ ed for them in a coach, with six horses;
 “ and he dared to say, they were got a great
 “ many miles by that time.” Poor Hum-
 phry, who is but slow in his motions, did
 not return with this intelligence in less
 than an hour after he received it. We
 have not yet been able to trace her ; but,
 as she will be of age to-morrow, fear she is
 gone to be married. How the plot was
 carried on remains a secret; tho’ I suspect
 Puller, an impertinent pickthank, who
 haunts the family, to have a hand in it;
 for he has not been seen hereabouts since.
 My sister is out of her wits, that such an
 affair should happen in her family. “She”
 (she says), “ who never permitted a gen-
 “ tleman to address her even by letter,
 “ without rebuking him for his temerity,
 “ could never have suspected any one, al-
 “ lied to her, could have been guilty of
 “ such an indecorum, as to run away
 “ with a lover.” I heartily pity her, and
 the giddy girl’s parent; tho’ I quite con-
 demn

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demn their conduct with regard to her, in confining a young thing of her volatile disposition, to the company she sees here, ever under the inspection of my sister, who was perpetually exclaiming against every amusement she had been accustomed to, and enforcing her nephew's disagreeable suit. We have not seen him since Sunday; and his father is in violent wrath with me upon his account, as you will perceive by the *polite* epistle, which I inclose for your perusal. Notwithstanding the uneasiness this foolish girl's behaviour gives my sister, she is not unmindful of you, but returns your civilities, and should be pleased to receive you again. I will let you know when it will be proper to return. In the mean time write in the same manner you used to Sir Henry, to,

My dearest girl,

Your sincere friend, and
affectionate humble servant,

M. FOSTER.

P. S. I have sent to Portsmouth, and received the same intelligence you did,

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did, as to your father's departure from thence. Joseph is likely to recover, and is to follow his master the first opportunity.

To Lady Foster
Humbly present.

Oak-Hall, June the 7th, 1757.

Dear Sister, my Lady,

I Could not have thought, after all the mourning you made for your spouse, and all the kindness that you pretended to have for his kindred, that you would have gone and encouraged my son in undutifulness; but I understand how matters are, from a letter that was sent me by an unknown friend, as he calls himself. Sure, my lady, you had kinsfolk enough to take notice of, without taking a soldier's girl, that comes from the duce knows where, into your family, and bringing her to my sister Foster's, on purpose to make fools of us all. I make no question, if she had not come and inveigled Nyky, that he would have minded my orders, and have been married by this time, as I bid him.

But

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But I can tell him, if he does not mend his manners, and court his cousin, the *Crab-tree* flourishes. And as to the painted puffs that you are so fond of, if he keeps rambling up and down all over the country after her, I shall make my will, and cut him off with a shilling: so I desire you would send him home. I do not care to write to my sister Foster, because she stands so much upon manners; and I will not write to my son, for fear I should put myself into a heat, and bring on a fit of the gout. So with my best love to my sister, I remain,

Your loving brother,

J. HAWS.

C H A P. V.

Miss Osmond to Lady Foster.

—Parsonage,

Saturday morn. 12 o'clock, June 11.

MANY thanks, my dear lady, for your kind epistle, which has rendered me very happy. The eclaircissement in that to the good doctor, has encouraged me to look him in the face, and converse

converse without reserve. O my dear friend! what inquietude must a mind, conscious of guilt, feel, when mine has suffered such perturbation, merely from the apprehension of being suspected of it! —I am concerned at the step Miss Jay has taken, and pity her relations.—I am sure I ought gratefully to acknowledge the goodness of that kind Providence, which, after the deprivation of one parent, has continued to substitute such friendly guides to me, that it must be my own fault, if I fall into enormous errors. The want of such judicious advisers in her early years, may have occasioned that she has committed; and I cannot help thinking, if her father had bestowed that portion of care in the cultivation of her disposition, and the direction of each passion to its proper object, which he dedicated to the accumulation of exorbitant wealth, this misfortune would never have happened, and they had both been happier.—I imagine Sir John Emlin had some other reason than what you assign for his visit; for my route could

could not be known to him; and to say truth, the reserve I observed to him, and the rejection I gave to his obliging offer of escorting me into Kent, proceeding from a very unfavourable report of his character, which I received from Mr. Haws, leaves me no room to suppose he would give himself any farther trouble about my affairs: but since I have been here, Doctor Trew, who appears to have an universal acquaintance with the worthies of this nation, assures me his character is meritorious, on the strictest scrutiny. He gave me the following instance of his justice and beneficence. It seems a part of his large possessions fell to him by an intail of some of his ancestors: his relation, the late possessor of it, was a man of gaiety, addicted to all the extravagant amusements of the age, and died ten thousand pounds in debt, and his creditors could make no legal demand upon the estate; but, Sir *John's* equitable conscience would not permit him, on its devolving to him, to receive it on such conditions: he therefore generously repaid every

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every debt his cousin had contracted; and as he left two pretty daughters in indigent circumstances, educated to higher expectations, he divided the full value of the remainder between them, and married them to two gentlemen, who had long pretended to them, and wanted nothing more than that addition to their circumstances, to continue them in the sphere of life, wherein they had been accustomed to appear.—The earl of——, the doctor's patron, and his family, are now at his seat, within view of my window.—They behave with an amiable affability to him and Mrs. Curtis, frequently calling in, and chatting with a freedom unusual in persons of their rank and years: for his lordship and the countess are both very young, and, as I am informed, extremely happy in their union. It was a match of inclination, I find, which is not frequently the case with quality couples: and as their affection seems founded on the permanent basis of good sense and good nature, there is a pleasing prospect of their continuing amiable to each other, and exemplary to the

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world, when that beauty, which is at present so conspicuous, and which united them, shall be only seen in an agreeable retrospection. This charming couple passed half an hour in the doctor's garden, on Thursday evening, and behaved with an ease peculiar to their characters: and yesterday morning I saw them ride by on horseback, without any attendant; an exercise my lord is particularly fond of, and her ladyship is so obliging as to accompany him in all *his*, I may more properly say *their*, amusements, since, from all appearance, they have no idea of separate ones.—The doctor was tutor to this nobleman's father, and attended him in his visits to most of the European courts, conducting himself with such propriety, as to engage the affection of his pupil, without degrading himself by any servilities unbecoming his function.—The earl was happily endowed with an understanding which rendered him so sensible of his tutor's merit, that he made him his confidant to the day of his death, and intrusted to him the care of his heir, in the
grand

grand tour he made, from which he has been but a few years returned.—Dear me! (as Mrs. Foster says) I hear the countess's voice in the hall, and another lady's, which, I think, I am not unacquainted with, calling out, "Indeed, doctor, you are very sly; but I positively will see this stranger. Come, introduce me, or I shall ransack the house."—"Don't mind this giddy creature," said the countess; "has not the doctor told us, she is engaged in writing? so we will take another opportunity of waiting on her."—"Pho, pho: the doctor, I know by his smiling, has only an inclination to wind my curiosity to the highest pitch, and I shall not humour him. I long to see, and see I must, if she answers the description my lord gives of her."—"Well, if your ladyship must see her," said the doctor, "you may ransack, if you please: I suspect you to be acquainted with every corner of my house; or how could I have found, on my return from town, a large canister of the finest tea, in a closet out of my study, and a paper stuck into

E 2

Beveridge,

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'Beveridge, which lay upon the table, in
'a fine Italian hand, declaring, *it was ill*
'*manners to drive into any body's private*
'*thoughts.*'——“ Well, doctor, I plead
“ guilty, but do not punish me so severely,
“ as to refuse me a sight of this wonderful
“ curiosity.”—I cannot help smiling to
think how she will be disappointed when
I appear, as I shall do, upon the doctor's
summons.—He taps at the study door; so
I must throw aside my papers.—

Saturday Night, 11.

Just returned from passing a delightful
evening with our quality neighbours.—I
found, upon opening the study-door, it was
Lady Barbara S—'s voice, as I conjectured.
At sight of me, she cried, “ Dear Miss
“ *Prado!* I little suspected I should find you
“ shut up in Doctor Trew's study, tho' I
“ have heard you were a student: I don't
“ wonder, since he is engaged with so
“ charming a pupil, that we have seen so
“ little of him lately. But where is Lady
“ Foster? and how does the good old
“ Kentish dame?” I was so confused at
being addressed by a name that has caused
me

me so much vexation, that I could not immediately reply; and the countess, probably remarking the revolution in my complexion, and imputing it to another cause, said, "You must be mistaken, " Lady Bab, in the resemblance this lady " bears to that you mention."—"No, " Madam," answered I, "her ladyship is " not mistaken: I was called by that " name when I had the pleasure of seeing " her last; the occasion of which I must " desire my good friend the doctor to im- " part, by communicating the last papers " he received from Lady Foster." Upon this, the doctor delivered to the ladies the narrative you favoured him with relative to my family, and satisfied their curiosity as to what has since happened to me. They expressed themselves much obliged by this mark of confidence; and the countess reiterated her civilities to me; declaring she could not have thought such a monster of villainy, as my uncle, had existed. "O the vile wretch!" cried Lady Bab; "I have met him frequently in " publick places, and always thought he

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“ had a libertine appearance, but did not
“ imagine he was quite a Dæmon; and
“ though I was shocked at the report of
“ *Damien's* tortures, I think I should not
“ be sorry if he underwent some of them,
“ —But pray where is Mrs. Orrice? for
“ I find she attended you; and she is an
“ old acquaintance of mine, for whom I
“ have a great regard, not only for her
“ fidelity to her lady, but her behaviour
“ in this vile affair.”—‘ Your question,
‘ Lady Bab,’ said the doctor, ‘ will set
‘ me a prating for an hour: she has found
‘ an uncle, as well as Miss Osmond; and
‘ thereby hangs a long tale.’—“ O, pray,
“ let us have it, Sir;—I know Lady——
“ longs as much as I do for a gratification
“ of her curiosity, tho’ she does not say
“ so.”—‘ I confess,’ said the countess, ‘ I
‘ shall be pleased to hear any detail inte-
‘ resting to the doctor.’ He then told
them Mrs. Orrice’s story; at the conclu-
sion of which they desired to see her, and,
with great affability, both congratulated
her on her restoration to her uncle. They
insisted on carrying the doctor and me
home

home with them to dinner ; but not being equipped for the day, I promised to attend them in the afternoon.—The ladies and I were some time in the drawing-room by ourselves, before his lordship, and a gentleman visitant, joined us : in which interval, Lady Bab was very inquisitive after the family at *The Willows*, and much diverted with the idea of Mr. Haws's enforced courtship. When I told her of Miss Jay's elopement, she said, " I can " guess with whom she is gone : " and turning to the countess, " she will furnish " a fine topic of conversation for Lady " Primly : I shall have her ringing " changes in my ears on knapfacks and " baggage-waggons ; for she seems to " think there is little difference in a mili- " tary station between an officer and a " private centinel ; and I have scarce pa- " tience sometimes to hear her harangue " upon that order."—" I am glad," said the countess, " you have given me an op- " portunity of reporting to Colonel L.— " your favourable opinion of the mili- " tary."—" That speech," answered Lady

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Bab; “does not seem dictated by your
 “usual good nature, Madam: Colonel
 “L—— has no need of any information
 “to puff up his vanity.”—‘Nay, now,
 ‘Lady Bab, you have made a declaration
 ‘in his favour, I am sure; for nothing but
 ‘an affectation of indifference could have
 ‘fixed a foible upon him, of which his
 ‘enemies, if he has any, must acquit
 ‘him. What appearance of vanity have
 ‘you discovered in him? except you
 ‘deem his pretensions to *you* so.’—“I
 “am not his enemy; nor do I think his
 “pretensions, as you call them, any dis-
 “honour to me: but he seems so assured
 “of success, that he piques my pride; and
 “I cannot bear he should imagine me so
 “easy a conquest. I don’t recollect, that,
 “in the whole course of our acquaint-
 “ance, he ever made me a compliment.”
 —‘In my opinion,’ said the countess,
 ‘the offer of his heart was the greatest he
 ‘could make you: but I must not suffer
 ‘you to grow grave upon the subject.’—
 “Pray, ladies,” said I, “what connec-
 “tion have knapsacks and baggage-wag-
 “gons

“gongs with Miss Jay?”—“Why, child!” returned Lady Bab, “did not you know ‘Mr. Craven is an ensign in a marching ‘regiment?’—My lord, and Mr. Mortimer, his visitant, entering the room, general topics of conversation ensued, in which Mr. Mortimer bore no inconsiderable share: he is remarkably handsome in person, and polite in his address; appears to be about thirty, has four thousand pounds a year in his present possession, and a large jointure of his mother’s in reversion. He was born of English parentage at Verona, and has passed his days abroad till within these three months, when he attended his mother to England, on account of an indisposition, for which her native air was prescribed. His lordship, Mr. Mortimer, the ladies, and the doctor, being all fond of musick, and practitioners, we had a little concert; at which, being much importuned, I assisted, tho’ with fear and trembling, before such judges. Lady Bab played a solo on the cittern, and performed it to admiration. This good company proposed carrying

me to Vauxhall, on Monday evening; I took Lady Bab and the doctor aside, and, after acknowledging the obligation of the intended favour, told them my apprehensions of surprise from some of my uncle's emissaries, must plead my excuse for rejecting it. The lady and doctor are both of opinion that my fears are groundless; and say, it is improbable any attempt against me should be made, under the protection of such company: so I have agreed to the proposal. Doctor Trew went to town on Thursday, upon Mrs. Orrice's account, and brought home with him yesterday the minister of a dissenting congregation, who is brother to the late Mrs. Frazer, from whom we learn Mr. Frazer died ten months since by a pistol bullet, which he directed with his own hand to his temple: having by will bequeathed his whole fortune to an illegitimate son, whom he had supported in great extravagance, and who, at his decease, offered the estate, formerly belonging to Mr. Orrice, to sale; but being incapable of making a clear title to it, he had

had not been able to dispose of it: so the doctor hopes, as this intelligencer is a man of undoubted probity and veracity, he shall be able to recover it for his niece.

—I was much pleased with the humanity and good sense this gentleman discovered in his conversation: my scanty scene of life having never before afforded me an opportunity of conversing with any one of his persuasion. When he was gone, I could not help giving my sentiments of him to the doctor; who was pleased to commend them, and inveighed against the partial prejudices some (otherwise) good people are apt to imbibe against persons, who dissent from their opinion in religious tenets; adding, he had read a discourse, preached on the occasion of the last General Fast, by the minister of a dissenting congregation in Suffolk, which merited great applause.—I have begun an epistle to my dear father, which will contain an account of all that has happened to me since the 28th of last month.

Mrs. Orrice has this moment told me, that Mrs. Curtis is in great affliction at

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some bad news she has just received. I would wait upon her; but Mrs. Orrice advises me not to do it to-night, as she has expressed a desire of indulging her grief by herself.—I must now to bed; though this piece of intelligence will hinder the repose of,

My dearest Lady's

Ever affectionate, and

obedient servant,

PHOEBE OSMOND.

C H A P. VI.

Miss Osmond to Lady Foster.

—Parsonage, Monday

My dear Lady, Morning, June 18.

THE instant I had sealed the letter I dispatched to you by yesterday's post, I would have attended Mrs. Curtis; but was informed she was fallen into a slumber. At breakfast I enquired the occasion of her affliction; and the doctor answered, she had but too much cause for it; but, as she had showed a surprising fortitude

fortitude in the severe trials she had already experienced, he hoped it would not forsake her in this. On my expressing a curiosity to know the incidents of her life, he very obligingly gave me the following account, as near as I can recollect the words.

“ There was,” says he, “ a great intimacy between our families from her
 “ infancy: her father and mine were representatives of the county in which
 “ they resided, several sessions of parliament: mine died first, and hers, in her
 “ minority; appointing her a guardian,
 “ who enriched himself at the expence of
 “ her peace of mind, by selling her to an
 “ extravagant libertine; for such her husband proved to be: and she underwent
 “ all the consequences of an union between consummate vice and purest virtue,
 “ with an exterior appearance of ease,
 “ and was never heard to complain of the
 “ behaviour of her dissolute partner; tho’
 “ the scenes of riot and debauchery, acted
 “ under his roof, obliged her to seclude
 “ herself from her worthy acquaintance,
 “ and

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“ and for some years confined her intirely
 “ to her nursery; where she employed
 “ her melancholy hours in rearing two
 “ sons, whom he never concerned him-
 “ self about, till they were of age to be
 “ removed to a school; whither he sent
 “ them, rather with a view to rid himself
 “ of their company, than for the benefit
 “ of education. Happily, they both in-
 “ herited their mother’s disposition; and
 “ she continually received pleasing ac-
 “ counts from their tutor of their conduct,
 “ and the progress they made in their stu-
 “ dies. She remained a recluse, seldom
 “ seeing their father, but in those gloomy
 “ intervals, when the consequences of his
 “ favourite follies had made him unfit
 “ for any other company. This way of
 “ life continued ten years, when a statute
 “ of bankruptcy deprived him of his
 “ estate, which was insufficient to dis-
 “ charge his debts. Her guardian had
 “ an ample consideration for the disposal
 “ of that part which she brought, and
 “ therefore had required no formal settle-
 “ ment; and she now found herself in-
 “ volved

“volved in her husband’s fate, and
 “bore it with that tranquility, and great-
 “ness of mind, which suffering innocence
 “can alone inspire. In this exigence, he
 “applied to a younger brother of his fa-
 “ther’s, who being settled at Ispahan,
 “had, in a long residence there, acquired
 “great wealth. This gentleman, as far
 “removed from approving, as he was
 “from being, the character of his ne-
 “phew, refused him any relief beyond an
 “annuity for life, to keep him from the
 “scandal and temptation of absolute
 “want; but engaged, if he would send
 “his sons over to him, to establish their
 “fortunes. Mrs. Curtis, who would wil-
 “lingly have relinquished her life, had it
 “been necessary to their welfare, endured
 “the shock of parting with two very
 “dutiful and hopeful youths, the one in
 “his eighteenth, the other his seventeenth,
 “year; and, tho’ under the pressure of
 “heart-felt agonies, suffered them to de-
 “part with seeming alacrity, lest her
 “parting sorrows might affect the young
 “travellers. She just received a satis-
 “factory

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“ factory account of their arrival, when
 “ her husband was seized with a malig-
 “ nant fever; in which she attended him
 “ with that tender assiduity which the
 “ best of men only deserve, and the best
 “ of women only can give to the unde-
 “ serving, and sincerely lamented his
 “ death; but more the disappointment of
 “ her flattering hope, that a reformation
 “ might possibly succeed his recovery.
 “ Upon transmitting the account of his
 “ decease to his uncle abroad, she was
 “ favoured with a kind letter from him,
 “ containing assurances of his affection to
 “ her and her children, and a promise of
 “ allowing her two hundred pounds a
 “ year, attended with bills to the amount
 “ of half that sum, to supply her present
 “ occasions. An epistle from her elder
 “ son, which accompanied this, was in-
 “ dited in the most dutiful style, inform-
 “ ing her of the happy situation he was
 “ in, possessed of his uncle’s favour and
 “ indulgence, and placed in such a me-
 “ thod of business, as, with the blessing
 “ of Providence, must inevitably raise him

“ to

“ to an easy fortune, and in a few years
 “ enable him to return, and pass the re-
 “ mainder of his days under the indul-
 “ gent eye of his dear parent: that his
 “ brother was happily put by his uncle
 “ under the care of a friend of his in one
 “ of the English factories in India, from
 “ whence she might expect to hear as
 “ agreeable intelligence as from himself.
 “ A letter from her youngest son soon
 “ brought a pleasing confirmation of this
 “ news; and I have heard her declare, the
 “ joy that the perusal of these letters
 “ transfused through her mind, was so
 “ great, as to obliterate the remembrance
 “ of all her former sorrows.—She had
 “ lived more than two years with the
 “ happy prospect of seeing her dear chil-
 “ dred return in affluence to their native
 “ land, when Kouli Khan’s rebellion in
 “ Persia, and the revolutions that suc-
 “ ceeded in that empire, in which Ispahan
 “ was plundered several times, and ruined,
 “ became the source of fresh calamities to
 “ her: for, in that devastation, her uncle
 “ and son lost their effects, and their lives
 “ soon

“ soon after, by endeavouring to escape
“ into Russia in a ship that sunk in the
“ passage. This fatal intelligence was
“ communicated to her by a letter from
“ her uncle’s friend in India, with whom
“ her surviving son was, and who gave
“ such a character of him, as in some
“ measure alleviated the severity of her
“ grief. She had now no prospect of pre-
“ serving herself from want, but by apply-
“ ing to some way of business: her œco-
“ nomy had been such, as to make a re-
“ serve of two hundred pounds out of
“ what had been transmitted from her
“ uncle; and with this she stocked a shop
“ in a country town, and made shift to get
“ an indifferent maintenance; till, about
“ a year since, her story reaching my ears,
“ I made her a visit; in which she made
“ no complaint of her reduced circumstan-
“ ces, but of an infirmity in her eyes, which
“ rendered her attendance on her business
“ very difficult. Upon this I solicited
“ her to accept of an apartment in my
“ house; and told her, if she would trou-
“ ble herself with the inspection of my
“ family

“ family affairs, I should be grateful for
 “ the favour of her company. She, with
 “ tears of gratitude, agreed to the propo-
 “ sal. I found myself very happy in her
 “ conversation, and she seemed perfectly
 “ satisfied with her situation, expecting
 “ very shortly the return of her only child.
 “ Last Sunday evening I surprised her in
 “ tears, with a news-paper in her hand,
 “ which she delivered to me, pointing to
 “ a paragraph that contained an account
 “ of the taking Calcutta, in Bengal. I
 “ was little less shocked than the mourn-
 “ ful mother; and had much the like ap-
 “ prehensions of the fate of her son.
 “ However, since we had no positive assu-
 “ rance that he had not escaped with
 “ many others, and there was a probabi-
 “ lity that he might have been so fortu-
 “ nate, she cherished that hope, and, you
 “ saw, has behaved with great composure
 “ since your arrival. But, by a letter
 “ which she received whilst we were at my
 “ lord’s last night, she has the fatal cer-
 “ tainty, that his life fell a sacrifice to the
 “ barbarity of the besiegers.”

I shed

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I shed tears of unfeigned sorrow at the doctor's recital, and, on our return from church, visited the sufferer. She received me with greater tranquility than I expected; and, upon the assurance the doctor gave her of a decent provision during her life, supposing her son's effects lost, she expressed her gratitude in the strongest terms, endeavoured to suppress the emotions of her tears, and was prevailed upon to eat a morsel at dinner. This morning she told me, it afforded her some consolation to reflect on the manner of her son's death, which happened in the beginning of the siege, by which he escaped the calamities of those who expired in the dungeon, or were made captives by the brutal victor. These reflections, which were doubtless suggested by the supreme Dispenser of comfort, have so far mitigated her affliction, as to give us hopes it will have no bad effect upon her health. Her misfortunes so deeply affect my spirits, that I wish to be released from this day's engagement; but the doctor says, it cannot be dispensed with; so I must, tho'

tho' reluctantly, dress against the hour my lord has appointed to take me to dinner.——

C H A P. VII.

Miss Osmond to Lady Foster;
[In Continuation.]

Tuesday Morning, 10 o'clock.

Yesterday's entertainment would have given me great pleasure, had not the calamitous circumstances I left good Mrs. Curtis in, cast a damp upon my spirits. One coach carried the countess, Lady Bab, Mr. Mortimer, and me; my lord followed in his post-chaise. We found a vast deal of company at Vauxhall; and, to my fancy, who never saw any amusement of this nature before, it gave an idea of some delightful scene raised by enchantment, that I have found described in my puerile reading, and which I thought never existed, but in the writer's own imagination. The artificial day at midnight, the triumphal arches, the glare of jewels, the groups of fine people, walking in verdant

dant alleys, or seated in alcoves, amazed and pleased, and seemed like so many gods and goddesses, and Handel's statue appeared the genius presiding over this charming residence of harmony and beauty. I was so absorbed in attention to the concert, and the pleasing contemplation of the scenes around me, that I never remarked any individual that appeared, till Lady Bab patted me with her fan, and pointed to an awkward figure of a man, whose face was then turned from our box; "I'll lay my life," cried she, "you have undesignedly made a conquest, child; for that creature has fix'd a pair of goggle eyes upon you for these five minutes, and has already lost half a dozen bows upon you." Regarding him attentively, I discerned my friend Haws, through the disguise of a full-drest suit, bag-wig, and sword, and in a whisper told her ladyship who he was. A fit of laughter, which she could not restrain at the information, caused him to face about; and, catching my eye, he made one of his best bows, pulled down a pair of laced ruffles,

ruffles, and, casting his eyes on the rest of his finery, gave me a smile, or rather a grin, making a motion towards approaching me; which my company desiring me to encourage, I beckoned him, and he entered the box, telling me, “ he was glad “ to see me with all his heart; and hoped “ I was recovered from the fright my “ *Kinsman* put me into.” I expressed surprise at meeting him there, and at the metamorphosis in his habit. “ Why, “ Miss,” returned he, “ I have given my “ father his head long enough; I now “ purpose to be my own man. He used “ to talk of disinheriting me, whenever I “ crossed him ever so little: but now I “ understand from Mr. Scrivener, that he “ cannot for his life and soul hinder me “ from the estate, which is intailed; and, “ moreover, by my mother’s marriage “ settlement, I was to have four hundred “ pounds a year at my own disposal, “ when I should be twenty-one years of “ age; and here am I six-and-twenty, “ and the duce a bit have I received “ more than ten guineas at a time for “ pocket

“ pocket money: so I am *set* upon
 “ taking a little recreation; and a friend,
 “ that I came acquainted with last week,
 “ has been so kind as to lend me some
 “ money at the rate of twenty per cent,
 “ (as he calls it), which I am to pay him,
 “ when I get the arrears that my father
 “ owes me: and as to my dress, I am
 “ got into other-guise company than cou-
 “ sin Deb.” He told me he was to go
 to see Windsor Castle this morning; and
 I invited him to the doctor’s on his way.
 When he left me to follow his compa-
 nions, which, from the little knowledge
 he had of the town, I was apprehensive
 might not be of the best repute, we ob-
 served, whenever we saw him, he was, in
his way, gallanting a very smart young
 woman, attended by a young fellow,
 whom, from the disposition of his hair,
 and an overstrained affectation of genti-
 lity, Mr. Mortimer pronounced a peruke-
 maker, and was not mistaken in his con-
 jecture. The young woman was known
 by the ladies, to be an apprentice to their
 milliner.—I am now quite convinced, my
 dear

dear lady, that nothing relative to me induced Sir John Emlin to visit you: for he passed us several times in the walks, and more than once our box, with great stiffness in his air, and gravity of countenance, giving us only the honour of his hat; and tho' Lady Bab made several motions for him to join our company, he either never saw them, or disregarded them. I was a little vexed, as I imagined this behaviour proceeded from his resentment of mine: but Lady Bab accounted for it, by saying, "I fancy Sir John is afraid of joining us, lest I should rally him on the loss of his heart."—"Nay," said my lord, "if he is conscious of having given occasion for the exertion of your talent that way, I cannot blame him. But, pray, is the fair lady, who has made so considerable a conquest (for I am certain his heart was no easy one), of our acquaintance?"—"That is a point not so clear to me," returned Lady Bab; "for you men creatures have unaccountable whims. By what I hear, Sir John was vanquished by a slight acquaintance

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“ with a pretty girl, of inferior rank,
 “ whom he picked up no-body knows
 “ where, and whom it is very improper
 “ he should have any farther connection
 “ with.”—‘ Pray,’ cried my lord, ‘ whence
 ‘ is this intelligence derived ? for to me,
 ‘ who know Sir John’s general character,
 ‘ it appears very absurd.’—“ You will be
 “ convinced it is authentic, my lord,
 “ when I assure you I received it from
 “ one of *his* privy council.”—‘ And of
 ‘ yours too ; thank you for the discovery,
 ‘ Lady Bab : I ever wished an intimate
 ‘ correspondence between you and the co-
 ‘ lonel, and am glad to find affairs are in
 ‘ so prosperous a way for him.’—“ Was
 “ ever so ill-natured an implication ! ”
 said she : “ because you have artfully
 “ drawn a confession from me, of re-
 “ ceiving a letter from the man, does
 “ it necessarily follow, that he is a favou-
 “ rite ? ”—‘ No, not in the least, Madam,’
 answered he, smiling ; ‘ no more than that
 ‘ the lady, to whom he lately addressed a
 ‘ panegyric in verse, is a favourite of his.’
 —“ There you are mistaken, my lord,”
 cried

cried she, with an air of exultation : “ I
 “ never saw any of his poetical stuff.”—
 ‘ I did not suppose you did see the piece I
 ‘ mention ; as I think it improbable your
 ‘ ladyship should be her confidante.’ This
 reply apparently disconcerted her ; she co-
 loured, counted the sticks of her fan, and
 said, “ Psha ! can’t we find a more agree-
 “ able topic ?—It is violently hot, cooped
 “ up here ; let us move towards the or-
 “ chestra.”—‘ Guilty, upon my honour,’
 cried my lord, clapping his right hand to
 his breast : ‘ I always threatened you, Lady
 ‘ Bab, for what you formerly made me
 ‘ suffer by your raillery, and now the time
 ‘ of retribution is come ; let us have no
 ‘ more affected airs of indifference.’——
 “ Come, my lord,” said the countess,
 “ you carry the jest too far ; we shall not
 “ have Lady Bab in spirits the whole
 “ evening : confess now, was not this
 “ imaginary panegyric a fiction of yours ?”
 —‘ Why should your ladyship suppose
 ‘ so ?’ said Lady Bab : ‘ tho’ I think my
 ‘ lord might have told us to whom it was
 “ addressed : not that it is any concern of

‘ mine, but one may very innocently
 ‘ have a curiosity in that particular.’—
 “ I understand you, Lady Bab,” answered
 my lord : “ *And is there then no mistress*
 “ *in the wood?* Is not that the question?
 “ —Well, to spare your fan, I will own
 “ I had so much malice as to lay this
 “ plot against your affectation ; and since
 “ I am now convinced the affair is not a
 “ matter of indifference to you, assure
 “ you, I know no lady who has any share
 “ in Colonel L——’s heart but your la-
 “ dyship. Now, if you please, we will
 “ walk to the music.” She made no reply,
 and we all quitted the box ; and being
 joined by many gentlemen and ladies of
 their acquaintance, no particular conversa-
 tion ensued. Mr. Haws is arrived.

Tuesday, 10 at night.

During Mr. Haws’s visit, which was
 but short, Doctor Trew asked him, how
 Mr. Scrivener imparted the information,
 concerning the entail of his father’s estate,
 and his right to that part at present, which
 he had mentioned. He answered, Mr.
 Scrivener, having no suspicion of his ig-
 noranc

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ignorance in those points, mentioned them in the course of his conversation. The doctor advised a speedy return to his father, whom, in as mild terms as possible, he should acquaint with his knowledge of these affairs, and not assume too much upon it: he said he would do so, when he had settled some business in London. The appearance of Mr. Mortimer, who came to bring me the notes of a song I heard last night, hastened his departure. There chanced to be lying on a table the miniature picture of my grand-mamma, which I had been shewing the doctor, and which attracted Mr. Mortimer's notice; who viewing it attentively, said it was an exact resemblance of a piece in his mother's possession, which was drawn for her mother; and he had more than once been going to ask if I was at all allied to Lady Catherine Osmond. My reply to this query occasioned a discovery, that is very agreeable to me: Mrs. Mortimer proves to be the sister, whose absence my father has so long regretted. The account I have from her son is, that after her hus-

band's decease, she left Florence, and taking a tour about Italy, with a family of condition, she settled at Turin, where she became acquainted with Mr. Mortimer, and married him; whose health requiring frequent change of air, they seldom resided more than a year at a place; yet, in this fluctuating life, she had heard of her father's second marriage, his death, and of her brother's leaving England, without being able to obtain farther intelligence of him. I have furnished him with a sufficient stock, which he is to communicate to her to-morrow; for she is in town, under the care of a famous physician.— I am very happy in the acquaintance of so worthy a relation; for, indeed, Mr. Mortimer is the reverse of my libertine uncle. He tells me, he left Sir John Emlin at the earl's, engaged in a *tete à tete* conference with Lady Bab. Our quality friends, who visited here this afternoon, congratulated Mr. Mortimer and me on the discovery the picture produced; and Lady Bab raised a blush in both our faces, by saying, “It is fortunate the affinity is not
“ within

“ within a forbidden degree.” Her ladyship, separating me from the rest of the company in our evening walk, imparted the occasion of Sir John Emlin’s morning visit, which was to enquire after me and my family, being much surpris’d at seeing me with her last night. After teizing him a little, she says, she solv’d the *ænigma*, as she calls it, of my identity. She raillied me with great good humour on the supposed conquest of my cousin Mortimer’s heart, who, she said, had made me the topic of his conversation, from the day he first saw me. I answer’d, his good opinion would do me honour; but was too conscious of my own indefert, and the disparity of our fortunes, to harbour such a thought. “ You
 “ are a good girl,” answer’d she, “ and
 “ have a becoming diffidence of your-
 “ self; but, seriously, I believe I am not
 “ mistaken in my conjectures concerning
 “ the state of his heart: yet, as you seem
 “ so little affected with it, I will venture
 “ to say, tho’ your aunt dotes upon her
 “ heir, and will no doubt be fond of you
 “ as her niece, she is so bigotted a catho-

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“lick, that her religion will suggest obstacles to her son’s union with an heretic.” The earl and countess have both taken an opportunity of divulging their sentiments of Mr. Mortimer’s inclinations, and I perceive they correspond with Lady Bab’s.—I am sorry that they entertain such a notion; as it will lay a restraint on my conversation with him, which has hitherto been easy and unreserved: not that I give into their opinion in this point; on the contrary, I think it ridiculous for a woman to conceive such an one of any person, till he has made a positive declaration of such sentiments; but that is not the case with regard to Mr. Mortimer; he is civil, and gives me reason to think my company is agreeable to him, and I own his is so to me; but, that either of us should suppose a union for life must be the necessary consequence of our acquaintance, appears to me quite absurd. The ladies were so kind as to pass half an hour in Mrs. Curtis’s chamber, whose exemplary fortitude excites their admiration, and

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and will, I hope, afford a lesson, if ever I should meet with any grievous trial, to

Your Ladyship's

Most affectionate, and

obedient humble servant,

PHŒBE OSMOND.

C H A P. VIII.

Lady Foster, To Miss Osmond.

The Willows,

June 14.

YOUR letter of Saturday, my dear young friend, afforded me great entertainment; and I rejoice at the acquaintance you have commenced with a noble family, to whose uncommon merit you could not have been a stranger, had you not been so to the nation in general.—

Do not be too opinionated of your own conjectures for the future, since mine concerning Sir John Emlin's intentions were better grounded, as I learn from Colonel L——; and I have rectified some mistakes, which that gentleman had been

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“lick, that her religion will suggest obstacles to her son’s union with an heretic.” The earl and countess have both taken an opportunity of divulging their sentiments of Mr. Mortimer’s inclinations, and I perceive they correspond with Lady Bab’s.—I am sorry that they entertain such a notion; as it will lay a restraint on my conversation with him, which has hitherto been easy and unreserved: not that I give into their opinion in this point; on the contrary, I think it ridiculous for a woman to conceive such an one of any person, till he has made a positive declaration of such sentiments; but that is not the case with regard to Mr. Mortimer; he is civil, and gives me reason to think my company is agreeable to him, and I own his is so to me; but, that either of us should suppose a union for life must be the necessary consequence of our acquaintance, appears to me quite absurd. The ladies were so kind as to pass half an hour in Mrs. Curtis’s chamber, whose exemplary fortitude excites their admiration, and

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CHAP. VIII.

Lady Foster, To Miss Osmond.

The Willows,

June 14.

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led into about you.—Lady Bab has a generous and good heart, though a humourous one, and I know none so proper to match it as the colonel's, which seems to be the counterpart; and neither of them, in my opinion, would be losers by an exchange. It gives me pleasure to find her inadvertently discovering a sensibility of his merit, as the alliance would do honour to them both, and be highly pleasing to their families.—In return to the anecdote you favoured me with, relative to Sir John Emlin, I will insert one of Colonel L——. His father had a profuse younger brother, of whom he was so excessively fond, -as many times to part with large sums to repair his fortune, which he as many times squandered in dissolute society, and every species of extravagance. Finding it therefore impossible to support him in the gay world, without injuring his own family, he fixed him at one of his country seats, where he passed his days in calling over his brother's hounds, and plaguing his tenants. Some years since, the colonel, on leave of absence from the regiment,

regiment, in which he was then a captain, went to this seat in order to pass the hunting season; where his uncle's brutal behaviour, and riotous companions, so disgusted him, that he changed his design, and came up to town to his father; then attending parliament, to whom he made a proper representation of the ill consequences of such damages to his estate and house, perversion of his farmers, and scandal to the whole neighbourhood. Upon this representation, the old gentleman recalled him, and kept him under great restraint in his own family; a step which so offended the uncle, that he resolved to be revenged of the author, and he became his nephew's implacable enemy from that time: and having an head as fertile of mischief, as his heart was of wickedness, gained his point so far, that by spreading malicious reports of him in his absence, and getting them by various engines conveyed to his father's ears, an open breach between him and his son succeeded; and the former, when an opportunity of promotion was offered the colonel, refused to

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advance any sum towards the purchase. The colonel, at his last return from Scotland, found himself in possession of two thousand pounds a year, by the death of his parent; who had but just before that period discovered his brother's treachery; and, as a punishment, left him only an annuity for life of sixty pounds a year, to support himself, and a son, which he had by a wife, who owed her death to his ill treatment. The colonel, who was perfectly well acquainted with the ill offices his uncle had done him, behaved with a laudable magnanimity of soul upon this occasion; and instead of upbraiding him, when the abject wretch appeared all submission before him, he never mentioned his fault, but ordered his annuity to be made up an hundred pounds a year; which he received punctually, in quarterly payments, to the day of his death; and purchased a cornetcy for his son, for whom also lately, on the augmentation of the forces, he has procured a company of foot. The colonel in this action makes a greater figure in my eye, than he would have

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have done at the head of the most glorious enterprize: for surely no conquest is so great, because none is so hard, as that of ourselves: brutes have strength and courage; man only has generosity, and tastes the pleasure of forgiveness and beneficence.—I will now transcribe two letters, which my sister has received, making no alteration but in the orthography; so take them as follows.

To the Honourable Mrs. Foster.

Dear Madam,

Monday, June 13, 1757.

I Ought to make a million of apologies for my abrupt departure from your house: but I abominate ceremony almost as much as I did cousin Nyky, from whose clutches I fled to the dearest, charmingest man in the universe! who is immensely fond of me, and I am certain will make a good husband; so I hope you will excuse my taking the liberty of chusing for myself. I must have been egregiously miserable with my papa's choice, who, I am sure, would dote upon Mr. Craven,

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Craven, if he did but know him ; and if he will but be so kind as to purchase him a captain's commission, I should be the happiest mortal breathing ; for I am quite of Silvia's mind, in the play, and prefer *a pretty fellow with a pad, to a coach and six with an ass.*—I passed my time till yesterday at the house of Mr. Puller's sister, and was married yesterday morning, by the parson of the parish in which my dear husband is quartered ; he being so prudent as to procure a certificate of my age from the parish register ; so that I have not a bit of quarrel now with the marriage act. If it had been time of peace, Mr. Craven would have carried me to Tunbridge next month, and to Bath in autumn ; but, as it is, he cannot be absent from his regiment ; and he is to march to camp on the 27th of this month, and I am to be at the adjacent town. All this would be extravagantly agreeable to me, if I was not under horrible apprehensions of the dear creature's complexion suffering by such an exposure to the sun. I think so pretty a fellow might

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might strike a bold stroke, and perform his exercise in a mask; and, should the fashion take, I am sure the army would make a more formidable appearance, and be more likely *to fright the French*. But lest we should not be able to bring this scheme to bear, I must beg you would favour me with your receipt to take off freckles and sun-burn. My dear Mr. Craven desires his particular civilities to you; and I hope you will be so good as to send my clothes by the bearer, which will much oblige,

My dear aunt,

Your extreme happy, and

obedient humble servant,

D. CRAVEN.

To the Honourable Mrs. Deborah Foster.

London,

Hon^d. Madam,

June 13, 1757.

YOURS I received, bearing date the 8th instant, in which you inform me of my daughter's elopement from your house. Am concerned she should behave

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behave so ill: was gone to visit a friend at Barnet, where I staid till last night, so did not receive yours time enough to make inquiry after her; but she has saved me that trouble, by a line per last post, informing me, she was that morning married to an ensign in ——— regiment; and the jackanapes her husband joins in it, asks my blessing, and has the impudence to expect I should pay her for her disobedience: but am resolved they shall *both bite of the bridle*. Should not have grieved half so much if she had taken *Jacobus* out of the counting-house, for he would have given a good account of my money. Begin to think I was wrong not to perfect her in arithmetic; for then she would have known the value of money better, than to throw it away on a red coat and shoulder-knot. Don't blame you in the affair, knowing you did what you could with her. In the mind I am in, she shall carry a knapsack all her life, before I part with a groat. Hope cousin Haws knows I was no-way concerned in his disappointment. If I am not mistaken, he

was

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was once a *soldier* himself, a colonel of the *militia*, therefore may know how to deal with son-in-law—Wish he would frighten him.—You may let Debby have her clothes, being the last she shall buy with my money. I bought your stock, according to order, on the 7th instant.—Have had two ships taken by French privateers, but had luckily insured both for more than their worth. Very hard times these! Must now to change: so no more from

Your dutiful nephew, to command,

EDWARD JAY.

I will suppose you have perused these epistles, my dear, and proceed to tell you, I have desired my sister, as matters are, to interceed in the young couple's behalf, and endeavour to prevail with her nephew to make the requested purchase. He cannot, with any propriety, condemn Mr. Craven for adhering to his own maxim, of risking all hazards to increase his fortune; and as she has married a gentleman, and, from his mismanagement of her, might have done worse, I would advise him

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him not to withdraw her accustomed allowance of a hundred pounds a year for clothes and pocket-money ; and let him reserve his further bounty to be bestowed as their future conduct shall deserve.—

Horton telling me she had received a letter from Traverse, I had the curiosity to desire a sight of it, but not the patience to transcribe it ; so inclose the original.— I have persuaded my sister Foster to send a bank note of forty pounds value in the letter she is writing to Mrs. Craven ; apprehending the giddy girl may want such a supply, before we shall be able to bring about our scheme with her father. And so small a sum, compared to what she would have received, if she had married with her aunt's approbation, cannot be thought an encouragement to an act of disobedience.— I hope you found the good Mrs. Curtis better than you expected, and that the health of every individual in the doctor's family is such, as is sincerely wished them by,

My dear girl,

Your true friend, and

most obedient servant,

M. FOSTER.

To Mrs. Horton, withe the honrabble my
Lady Foster, at the Willews in Kent.

Deer Madem, —June the thirten.

THESE few lins cumms to desir you
woed be plased to give yourselve
the trubel to looke up my thinges that i
levft wen i accompaned my lady, and
send them by the barer. We had a far-
teekin gurny to this plase, but we hafe
had so muche playfure fins that i am
mensly hapye. My lady was marred
isterdy to the pretest gentelman i ever
lade my ise on accept mister Tricker his
fargant, who is my umbel fervent, and
gregisely hanfum, and i beleeves he is so
vary argent that he wil pervale withe me
to foolo my ladys xempel. We shal go
to Kamp in aboat a fortnite, and i shood
be proud of the honer to se you thare, if
you can get leve, the agreibel mistar
Jerry mite bringe you in a cheer. i woed
cownsel you as a frend not to corntinew
mopping withe ould ladys, in the meen
wile hop you wil faver me with a pistol,
i wil

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i will be fur to handsur it, and tel you all
the nuse, for mistar Tricker is xstarver-
gantly hintermate withe all the millichary
gentalmen. Pray presant my fervilities to
your mamar and Mrs. Maud, i pittes her,
for I surpose she had but a bade time
with her ould lady sins my yong lady
levft her hofe. i remain, deer Madem,

Your vary umbel farvent,

ABIGAL TRAVERSE.

C H A P. IX.

Miss Osmond, To Lady Foster.

—Parsonage,

Wednesday Evening, June 15.

LADY Bab was with me, when I re-
ceived my dear Lady Foster's last
letter, which I communicated to her. She
says, you are very obliging both to the
colonel and her; more particulary to the
former, as she was unacquainted with that
incident of his life you related, which has
given her a better opinion of him; "in
" other words," said I, "increased your
" ladyship's good one." "I find," an-
swered she, "you are all in a combina-
" tion.

tion against poor me ; but no such confession shall be drawn from my mouth.'—She is much pleased with your scheme to promote Mr. Craven, and hopes, with me, you will bring it to bear. Their income, in that case, she says, will be strait enough, to make her sensible of the difference between living with an indulgent parent, who supported her in affluence, and following her husband's fortune ; and thinks, all circumstances considered, the young man will be sufficiently punished.—I received a card of invitation from Mrs. Mortimer, and waited upon her, at her house in Piccadilly, yesterday. She received me with great marks of affection, and we both shed tears at the recital the doctor, who went with me, gave of my dear parent's disappointments. I am concerned to perceive her health in so declining a state, as affords little prospect of her ever having an interview with my father, much desired on her part. She presented me with a valuable ring, which I shall venerate as much as she does any of her consecrated reliques.—Never more, my dear

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dear lady, will I be opiated of my own conjectures, since every other person's appear to have better foundation; at least, I find yours, and those of my friends here have, as you will perceive, when I tell you, Mr. Mortimer accompanied the doctor and me home last night; and having an opportunity of a private conversation with me, employed all his eloquence in making me an offer of his hand and heart, on the most honourable and generous terms; which not a little embarrassed me, who am very sensible, from his extraordinary character, and the whole tenour of his conduct, they are very deserving of my acceptance. But the difference of our opinions, in a most essential point, appears to me a grand obstacle to mutual happiness in a married state; and really, having no other objection to his proposal, I made that only: which he endeavoured to obviate, as a lover; saying, he had maturely considered that point, before he presumed to divulge his sentiments to me, and was convinced it need be no impediment to an happy union; in-

stancing

stancing several similar cases in couples of
 his acquaintance, who, by trivial concessions on both sides, led very happy lives.
 I acknowledged the honour done me by
 the generosity of his offer, and a consciousness of his merit; but assured him I
 must decline it, even if it was approved of
 by my aunt, whom it was his duty to consult on such an occasion. That I should
 ever esteem him as a friend, but could not
 think of a nearer affinity; and hoped he
 would be satisfied with this assurance, and
 not importune me on a subject which must
 oblige me to treat him with a reserve, as
 disagreeable to my own inclinations as to
 his. Notwithstanding this prohibition, he
 used many further arguments to induce
 me to recede from my resolution; but
 finding them ineffectual, left me in apparent
 discontent of mind: and, to confess a truth,
 mine is much less at ease than
 it was before he made this declaration.
 Lady Bab, to whom he has imparted his
 sentiments, says, in her sprightly way,
 “ I have much reason to be uneasy, truly!
 “ at the address of a man of his un-
 “ blemished

“ blemished character and fortune, whom
 “ half the young women of condition in
 “ town are aiming to captivate.” Her
 ladyship proposes going to-morrow to
 pass a few days with Mrs. Mortimer; and
 I grieve at the thought of her removal:
 however, she has promised to write to me.
 —Doctor Trew has commenced a suit at
 law for the recovery of his niece’s estate;
 and Counsellor Capel, whom he has re-
 tained, dined here to-day. This gentle-
 man, by an intense application to his
 studies, uncommon judgment, and great
 probity, has attained to an unusual de-
 gree of eminence in his profession, at so
 early an age as thirty. I can perceive by
 his conversation, that the study of the
 law has not engaged his whole attention;
 he being very intelligent in all matters of
 politeness, and able at pleasure to change
 the learned for the agreeable character.
 The doctor says, his morals are unque-
 stionably good, and his fortunes very
 genteel, being possessed of a paternal estate
 of four hundred a year when he was called
 to the bar, and having since, by the death
 of

of a relation, had an accession of a thousand pounds a year. We are to spend to-morrow at his country-house in the Oxford road. Mrs. Orrice, quite happy in her uncle's favour and protection, dedicates most of her hours to the consolation of Mrs. Curtis; who, good creature! says, she is greatly indebted to kind Providence for sending us hither at this juncture. It gives me inexpressible satisfaction to find she can receive any alleviation of her distress from our company.

C H A P. X.

Miss Osmond, To Lady Foster.

[In Continuation].

June 16, 11 at Night.

I Have passed a very agreeable day. Mr. Capel's house and gardens are furnished and laid out in an elegant taste, and he himself behaved with great propriety: Mrs. Norfolk, an elderly lady, his relation, did the honours of the table.—One of the earl's servants has just left a letter for me, a transcription of which will afford me sufficient employ for this night.

To Miss Osmond.

Piccadilly, June 16.

10 in the Morning.

WORSHIPFUL Society am I got into! You know, my dear, at your aunt's request, and because she had been an intimate acquaintance of my mother's, I came hither: but I would sooner attend her in a pilgrimage to Lorretto, than pass a week as I have one day. You have seen her house, but I presume never had the honour to be introduced into her bed-chamber, to which she now confines herself and company, with a glowing fire at this season, expecting them to have eastern constitutions: it would be deemed an unpardonable crime to attempt unscrewing a sash, or opening a door; yet, I think, if she knew my sufferings in this purgatory, heretic as she believes me, she would release me from it.—Her rosary and card table divide her hours; and I had not been seated five minutes, before the latter appeared; and forced was I, who as much abhor cards without candles,

dles, as I should a ball by day-light, or without a lively partner, to engage in a rubber before dinner, with her, her son, and an old maiden acquaintance, Mrs. Prudence Manfly; the greatest piece of affectation and prudery I ever met with, and a living barometer: from some symptoms in her head, or feet, she is continually prognosticating a change of weather: according to the present state of her quicksilver, we are to have rain.—On our entrance into the dining-parlour, we found Sir Charles Wilding, a gay young fellow, whom Mr. Mortimer met with in his travels: at sight of him Mrs. Manfly went out of the room, desiring her dinner might be served up in her own apartment; a motion that appeared very ungenteel to me, who was left with the gentlemen. I asked, if either could account for so odd a whim: “I believe I can,” replied Sir Charles, “tho’ I risk your raillery by the confession: she resents a kiss falling beside her own lips.”——
 ‘ And have you the impudence to mention the occasion you gave her for of-

“fence?” (cried Mr. Mortimer). “If I
 “thought it any,” returned Sir Charles,
 “I would not; but as the case may be
 “misrepresented to Lady Bab, Self-de-
 “fence obliges me to tell you, Madam,
 “that coming to visit this lazy fellow,
 “yesterday morning, I found he had not
 “quitted his pillow; and in my way to
 “his chamber, meeting a female atten-
 “dant of Mrs. Manfly’s, I very inno-
 “cently kissed her, en passant; which her
 “mistress over-hearing, made her appear-
 “ance, and rebuked me in such abusive
 “terms, and talked of the heinousness
 “of my offence in such a manner, that I
 “was provoked to vow vengeance on her
 “prudery, one time or other.”—“You
 “were both to blame,” said Mr. Mortimer;
 “and I beg Sir Charles, for the future,
 “you would avoid giving her occasion of
 “offence. I allow she carries her whimsi-
 “cal notions a ridiculous length; but al-
 “most every person has a peculiarity in
 “his or her character. I assure you, her
 “shoe-maker always sends his wife, or
 “daughter, to measure her foot; and I
 “over-

‘over-heard her giving orders to her servant to fetch Mrs. Lacey to fit her stays to-morrow morning.’ Different topics ensued, till I was summoned up into the *Bagnio*, and requested, as your cousin was engaged below with Sir Charles, to play with a *dumb* partner; only think of *that*, for one who loves tattling like me. No poor creature, oppressed by hunger, ever longed more for a meal, than I for supper, in hopes it would relieve me from my present situation: but no sooner had I swallowed it down, than we returned to our employment, (amusement I could not then call it) which I was not permitted to quit till midnight; for ill as Mrs. Mortimer is, she cannot bear her bed, or her own company, and tells you ’tis charity to sit up a little longer with her.—I wish, child, you had given her son one grain of encouragement, for my sake; he is so thoughtful, so dejected, and silent, that he looks like a family picture, and I want a lively figure in the group. Behold! one appears.—“I will wait upon her in two minutes.”—Only answering Mrs. Mag-

dalane, who came with her lady's compliments, and she should be glad of it if I would play a game at picquet with her, whilst Mrs. Manfly is fitting her stays. So adieu for the present.—

5 o'clock.

A reprieve from cards affords me time to finish my letter. Poor Mrs. Manfly! unpruded for ever! confined to her chamber in the height of vapours: your aunt and cousin differently affected by the occasion, and only I rejoicing at an opportunity of *taking the air*, in my dressing-room.—That mad fellow Sir Charles has caused all this confusion, who came into the parlour as we were eating our fruit after dinner, and, with the most solemn impudence, addressed Mrs. Manfly, presenting her a phial, and a small paper, saying, “ There, Madam, is the beautifying lotion you ordered me to procure; “ and as the lace I used in your stays this “ morning was rather of the shortest, in “ this paper you will find another; and a “ plaister for the corns you shewed me. I “ shall hope for your future custom; but “ my

“ my memory being none of the best,
 “ and having never before been honoured
 “ with a lady’s commands of that nature,
 “ I have quite forgot on which shoulder
 “ the *padding* is to be placed.” Mr. Mortimer and I were in little less consternation than the person to whom these words were addressed; who rose from her chair, dashed the phial against the floor, and flew out of the room, casting wrathful glances at us all. My impatience to know the meaning of what had passed, deterred me from following her; when Sir Charles informed us, that the hint of the stay-maker, which dropp’d from your cousin yesterday, furnished him with a plot, which he executed this morning: for having ordered his servant to enquire where Mrs. Lacey lived, he sent in Mrs. Manfly’s name, desiring she would send her stays by the messenger, having an inclination to look at them before they were tried on; and procuring female habiliments, with a mob pinned close to his chin, and a bonnet, he came in a hackney coach, and passed upon her for a journey-woman.

of Mrs. Lacey's. Mr. Mortimer, who has that sort of disposition, which a great poet stiles *milkeness of soul*, was much hurt, by reflecting on what Mrs. Manfly must endure, from this facetious scheme; and in an half-angry, half-civil, manner, expressed as much to the executor of it, desiring he would not increase her chagrin, by appearing before her during her continuance here. I could hardly refrain from laughing at first; but, upon reflecting how I should have resented such an audacious plot, quite scolded Sir Charles; who, thus beset on both sides, marched off. We are all extremely angry with him.

—I think it is providential that you are not in my situation; for if you were, the goodness of Mr. Mortimer's disposition, the affability of his behaviour to his domestics, his tender complaisance to his mother, who is a little fretful under her present circumstances, could not avoid making an impression on your corresponding heart, which would certainly create uneasiness, since you are determined to reject him as a lover, from laudable motives :

tives: my lord, and the countess allow them to be such; but his lordship, like the rest of the men-folk, has so high an opinion of the merits of his sex, as to suppose you may have other reasons: he insinuates that there are some genius's in the nation you have been most conversant in; and wishes a French marquis, or count, or some traveller of our own nation, may not have been before-hand with Mr. Mortimer in his attacks upon your heart. I rated him severely for his unwarranted supposition, and asked him upon what grounds he could suppose it; since I was very certain, a woman might refuse the most advantageous matrimonial proposal from one man, without being at that time biassed in favour of another: and that I firmly believed to be your case.

This notion of the mens appears to me to take its rise from the silly behaviour of some of our sex; who can never hear of a young woman's being about to change her condition, but they express themselves overjoyed at it, without inquiring whether there be any prospect of

happiness in the intended union: as if every good was centered in the title of wife. For my part, I declare, tho' one of our poets has said there is no such thing, I had rather lead apes in the other world, than be led by them at present. Should it be Mrs. Manfly's office to hand Sir Charles, who has as much of that animal in his present state of existence as any of his sex, I hope she will give him a pinch for past transgressions: I am sure, if it should be mine, he shall have a hearty one, from

Yours, very sincerely,

BARBARA S——.

I leave your ladyship to comment on Lady Bab's letter, whilst I repose. Tomorrow I am engaged to pass with the countess, in order to assist her in the disposition of some shells: and having nothing more to communicate by this post, will, with a return of the civilities you sent to this household, conclude myself,

My dear Lady,

Your most affectionate,

humble servant,

PHŒBE OSMOND.

CHAP. XI.

Miss Osmond, To Lady Foster.

—Parsonage,

June 24.

A Cold, which I caught in the earl's grotto this day se'ennight, being succeeded by a sharp fever, has interrupted my journal; but, thank God, and my good nurses, I am now able to quit my chamber, and have experienced the utmost care and tenderness from the doctor, and his family, during my illness. The countess visited me when I was at the worst; and had I been honoured with a near alliance to her, she could not have expressed more concern at my indisposition, or joy on the appearance of every favourable symptom. Mr. Capel was so assiduous in his inquiries after me, as to come himself daily for information: Mr. Mortimer did the same till Wednesday; and last night I received a letter from his mother, which I shall proceed to copy.

Mrs. Mortimer, To Miss Osmond.

Piccadilly,

Dear Niece,

June 23, 1757.

THE report of your indisposition affects me greatly, who have but too much reason to regret the loss of that blessing, without which every other is tasteless: but, from the accounts of this day, I hope you will soon regain it. My son's apprehensions for you have had such an effect upon his health, as to throw him into a worse state than that you are so lately relieved from, and divulged a secret to me, that I had not the least suspicion of.— Since he seems to think your rejection of his proposals was in some measure owing to a notion they would be disapproved of by me; I will own you are the only protestant, to whom I could give consent in such a case: but your extraordinary merit, and prudential behaviour in the affair, has induced me to plead his cause. I flatter myself with the hope my brother will not be averse to bestowing you upon him; and assure you, without
making

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making any conditions, but what shall come from your own free-will, if you accept my son, I shall esteem myself the party obliged, and think you intitled to the same share of my affection, that he so deservedly possesses, from

My dear Niece!

Your most affectionate
humble servant,

CATHERINE MORTIMER.

This letter, my dear lady, no less embarrasses me, than his verbal proposal did before. Answer it I must; but as I cannot in the manner required, it is the most disagreeable office I ever was put upon. I doubt not but my aunt is sincere in her assertions: but then, she may entertain hopes of converting me to her religion, by the like allurements which wrought a change in her own principles; and I am determined not to trust to my own strength in so material a point, and have therefore wrote this reply.

Miss

Miss Osmond, to Mrs. Mortimer.

—Parsonage, June 24.

YOUR very kind sentiments of me, dear Madam, I esteem as the highest honour; and am only sorry I owe the revelation of them to Mr. Mortimer's illness and partiality.—I am but too conscious of his merit, and my own indelert, not to be sensibly affected with the generosity of a proposal, that I must decline all thoughts of accepting, for reasons that will ever remain an unsurmountable obstacle to the union he sollicit; tho' they can be no impediment to a disinterested friendship, which it will be my wish and endeavour to preserve with such valuable relations. I hope he will speedily have a return of health, and such reflections, as will enable him to acquiesce without uneasiness in my sincere offer of an harmonious and fraternal amity; which is all that can ever be expected from,

Dear Madam,

Your most obedient niece,

and grateful humble servant,

PHOEBE OSMOND.

My

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My head is still too weak to bear poring upon paper; and the subject I have been writing to my aunt about, so interesting, that I hope you will not be displeased, if I make this a more concise epistle, than you usually receive from,

My dear guardian,

Your most affectionate,

and obedient servant,

PHOEBE OSMOND.

P. S. Lady Bab, who is returned to the earl's, is so condescending as to do all in her power to divert me.

Lady Barbara S—, To Lady Foster.

June 28, 1757.

ALL frightened out of our wits, dear Madam! Miss Osmond stolen away!—A scheme, we suppose, of her vile uncle's, or the villain Trailer's. The doctor is gone to town to make enquiry after that wretch, having found out his lodgings. Osmond has, within these few days, appeared at Arthur's.—No attempt being made to molest the dear creature from that quarter,

quarter, she was lulled into such a security, as to venture to take the air yesterday evening in a chair, accompanied by Mrs. Orrice, and attended only by one of the doctor's servants; from whom we learn, that they were got five miles in the Oxford road, when four men on horseback, masked and armed, approached the chair, and stopp'd the horse. Miss Osmond and Mrs. Orrice, suspecting they were highwaymen, offered their purses: but that not satisfying them, one of the men insisted on their quitting the chair, pretending they would search it; an order they did not dare to disobey: but no sooner was Miss Osmond out, than one of them laid hold of her, and, seating her before him, rode off; the others following with such expedition, that they were out of sight in an instant; and poor Mrs. Orrice returned more dead than alive, with this report. Messengers are dispatched to all parts of the town and country, with a description of Trailer's person; as we doubt not, if he is secured, she may be traced. In the midst of my concern for her, I cannot help being vex'd

at her refusing so worthy a protector as Mr. Mortimer.—But I had forgot their different tenets in religious matters, and own she is a good girl, and that it will afford me infinite pleasure, to be able to transmit a more agreeable account of her, than what you now receive, from,

Your Ladyship's
Obedient humble servant,
BARBARA S——.

CHAP. XII.

WHILST Doctor Trew and Miss Osmond's other friends were under the utmost anxiety upon her account, Mr. Trailer and his myrmidons, regardless of her cries and entreaties, carried her through bye-roads to an house Mr. Osmond had lately taken in Oxfordshire; into which Mr. Trailer, unmasking, conducted her, telling her, she was sole mistress of it. Three servants of each sex appearing at his summons, he told them before her, they were to take their orders in every thing relative to the family from that

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that lady, who was their master's niece. At this she had the courage to say, tho' almost suffocated by her tears, "If I could believe it possible a word of truth could issue from your lips, the first command I should give them would be, weakened as I am by sickness of mind and body, to convey me out of this detested house."—"You speak at random, Madam," answered he; "I fear the fatigue of the journey has had a bad effect upon your senses, otherwise you could not complain of a house you have not yet seen: give me leave to conduct you about it, and you will acknowledge it to be furnished in an elegant taste. Mr. Osmond has been at much expence in fitting it up for your reception; and it will be prudent to reconcile yourself to it, since, whether you approve it or not, it is designed for your future residence: and tho' you may see less company than at your old parson's; you will be much better accommodated, and no further violence will be offered you. Mr. Osmond requests only the pleasure of your

con-

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‘ conversation; and will never mention
 ‘ the word love to you more, but on the
 ‘ Platonic system.’—“ He must have a ve-
 “ ry low opinion of my understanding or
 “ morals,” returned she, “ to imagine I
 “ should consent to converse with him on
 “ any terms; or that I should not see
 “ through his specious pretences of *Plato-*
 “ *nic nonsense*.”—“ I do not much wonder;”
 replied he, “ at the aversion you express to
 ‘ this proposal just now, whilst your heart
 ‘ is warmed with your passion for your new-
 ‘ found cousin Mortimer. The encourage-
 ‘ ment you have given to his addresses was
 ‘ too notorious to escape Mr. Osmond’s
 ‘ ears, and urged him to this expedient,
 ‘ to prevent at least a favoured rival’s hap-
 ‘ piness.”—“ Ill-manner’d as your insinu-
 “ ation is,” said she, “ if that was really
 “ his design in bringing me hither, and
 “ since my fate is such as obliges me to
 “ offer conditions to regain my liberty,
 “ infringed by a wretch, who acts in de-
 “ fiance of all laws, divine or human;
 “ I will very readily give him my promise
 “ in writing, under what penalty he
 “ pleases,

“pleases, never to marry Mr. Mortimer;
 “provided he will release me from this
 “illegal confinement.”—‘I am not im-
 ‘powered, Madam, to act as an agent in
 ‘such an affair; but he will be here to-
 ‘morrow, to answer for himself.’ An
 elegant supper being served up, he solli-
 cited her in vain to partake of it. Unwil-
 ling to hold a longer conference with him,
 she desired to be shown into another
 room; and was conducted by a female
 servant into an apartment, where she per-
 ceived two beds, and the windows barri-
 caded: she asked the servant, if this was
 to be her prison.—“Dear Madam,” an-
 swered she, “I am sorry to hear you call
 “it so; I am sure my master means all
 “in good part; but, to be certain, it is
 “very hard for a young lady to be crossed
 “in love: but *lafs-a-day!* Madam, there
 “is more men than one in the world; and
 “such a pretty lady may happen of some
 “handsome young ‘squire, worth the *In-*
 “*dies* of gold, that your uncle may give
 “his consent to.”—‘I don’t understand
 ‘your meaning,’ said the young lady.’

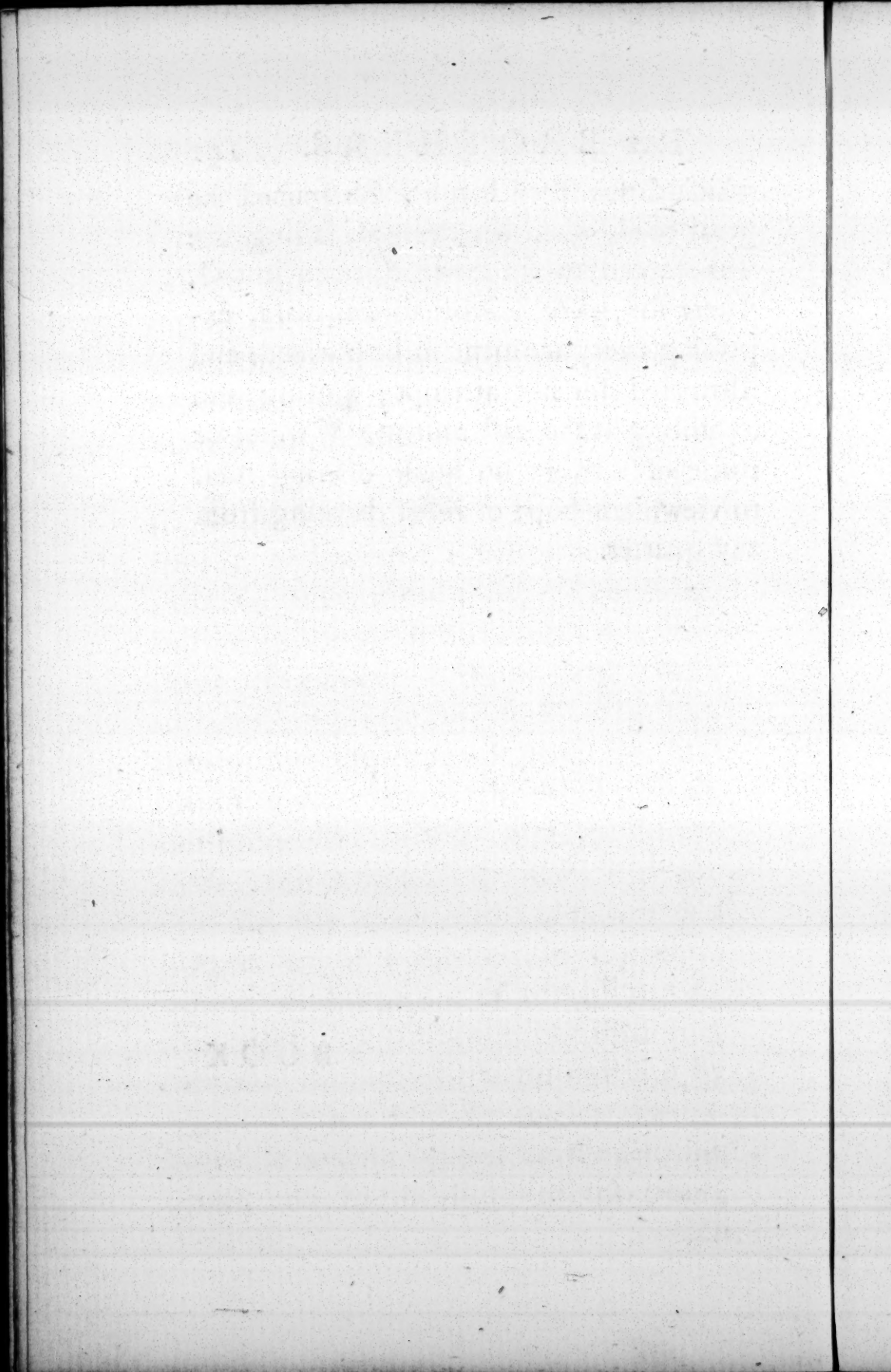
“O!

“ O! Madam, there’s never a servant in
 “ the house, but knows you were going to
 “ be married against my master’s liking,
 “ and that you were brought here to *break*
 “ *the neck* of the match. I am sure I pity
 “ you; for I was once in love myself, and
 “ I knows it is very hard to be denied the
 “ company of them one likes.” The
 young lady, to whom this conversation
 was little less irksome than Trailer’s,
 told her, she had no farther occasion for
 her, if she would please to leave the can-
 dles with her.—“ I must help you undress,
 “ Madam,” returned she.—“ I shall not
 ‘ put off my cloaths to night,’ answered
 ‘ Miss Osmond.’—“ I must ask your par-
 “ don, Madam,” said the maid; “ but my
 “ orders are not to leave you alone, but
 “ to lie in this settee bed by you.”—“ I
 ‘ thought you were to receive your or-
 “ ders from me?”—“ Yes, Madam, so I
 “ am, as to every thing else; but my master
 “ does not chuse you should be left alone,
 “ for fear you should be melancholy.”—
 ‘ If you please then to go to bed, and
 ‘ leave the candles burning, I will throw
 ‘ myself

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‘myself on the other as I am; for I am
‘determined not to undress.’ This being
agreed to, notwithstanding the perturbation of her mind, she fell into a doze, about two in the morning, from which she was roused by the cry of fire. It seems the chamber, in which Mr. Trailer lay, had been lately painted; and he found the smell so offensive, that he had called up a servant, and ordered a fire to be kindled, and the sashes thrown up. The maid, half-asleep, executed his orders; but, forgetting to remove a board fixed in the chimney, to prevent any soil falling from thence into the room, it took fire, and blazed so as to alarm the whole house, and every servant was employed in endeavours to extinguish the flame. At the first cry, the maid with Miss Osmond jumped out of bed, and fled the room, leaving the door open, of which the lady took advantage; and the universal consternation the family were thrown into by this accident, enabled her to escape unobserved at a door opened for the fetching water; and by the light of the moon, which

which shone very bright, she gained the great road, when her strength failing, she was forced to sit down upon a knoll, where she gave a loose to her tears, expecting every moment to be pursued, and ill-treated for her attempt; starting and trembling at the least murmur of wind, or rustle of a twig: no house offering itself to view, nor hope of relief dawning from any quarter.



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BROTHERS.

BOOK II.

CHAP. I.

MISS Osmond had not remained above ten minutes in this afflicting situation, before the sound of wheels reached her ears, and she discerned several waggons approaching. Getting upon her feet, she solicited the driver of the first to take her up, not knowing whither they were going, but supposing, with probability, to some town, where she

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might procure refreshment and a better conveyance. The fellow churlishly refused her, saying, "they had as much baggage already as his horses could draw; and she might as well walk, as some of the other women." Thus repulsed, she was moving towards the next; her feet tottering, and her eyes streaming, when an officer, observing her dress and appearance, rode up to her, and civilly demanded her request; she replied, it was for a cast in one of the waggons, for which she was ready to pay whatever was required. The officer, having ordered the waggoner to halt, alighted from his horse, and placed her, in as commodious a manner as he could, in the vehicle, saying, some very extraordinary accident must have occasioned a person of her figure to travel on foot, and unattended, at so unseasonable an hour; but he should not desire her to gratify his curiosity in that point, till they arrived at the town they were to be quartered in that night. Nothing could have reconciled her to her present situation, but the remembrance of that she had been

been in just before : she was jumbled along in a dirty cart ; her furniture was stinking baggage, and her company were sick women, squalling children, and maimed soldiers, from whose conversation she learned they belonged to a regiment, who were on their second day's march to camp.—When they arrived at the end of the town, the gentleman who placed her in the waggon, helped her out of it, and conducted her to an inn, giving her in charge to the hostess, with a promise of returning, as soon as he was off duty. She, who had taken neither food nor sleep since she fell into Mr. Trailer's hands, very readily accepted the landlady's proposal of refreshment ; and after drinking a dish of coffee, and eating a roll and butter, finding herself inclined to sleep, she ordered a post-chaise to be in readiness against she awoke, and retired to bed.—In this interval, every officer in the division was acquainted with the adventure, and desirous of seeing her. Mr. Craven chanced to be of the number ; and his lady arriving in a post-chaise, put up at the same inn where

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Miss Osmond was reposing ; who hearing various conjectures of the wandering lady, told the landlady she must contrive some means to see her ; adding, “ I have an “ *immense* curiosity to know whether the “ creature be as handsome as Captain “ H—— says.” ‘ She is very handsome, ‘ indeed, Madam,’ returned the hostess. —“ She may be so, perhaps,” said Mrs. Craven ; surveying her own figure in a glass : “ beauty is all fancy. However, “ I’ll lay my life, she is some trollop, “ who follows one of our gentlemen.” — ‘ I can’t pretend to say what she is,’ answered the landlady ; ‘ but she has not the ‘ aspect of such a woman as you seem to ‘ suspect. I think I never saw greater modesty in any body’s countenance in my ‘ life.’—Miss Osmond’s bell sounding, she left Mrs. Craven, with a promise that her curiosity should be gratified by a sight of her. That young Lady’s spirits being recruited by sleep, she was impatient to set out on her journey to Windsor ; and asking if the chaise was ready, she was answered, the horses were harnessed. But
before

before they were put to, Captain H——, who brought her thither, begged leave to pay his compliments to her. — If good-breeding would have permitted, she would gladly have avoided this ceremony ; but, obliged as she was to him, she found herself necessitated to receive his visit, and came down-stairs for that purpose. Mrs. Craven, apprized of this motion, placed herself so as to have a full view of her without being seen. On Captain's H——'s entrance into the room, where Miss Osmond was, she returned him thanks for his civility ; and, apprehensive the manner in which he met her might occasion disreputable conjectures, acquainted him with her name, and the forcible means Mr. Trailer had used to separate her from her guardian, and confine her prisoner in her uncle's house : concealing, however, her uncle's motives, which she could not bear to mention to a gentleman, and a stranger. Whilst she was giving him this information in one room, Mrs. Craven, who had gathered the rest of the officers about her in another, was relating all she knew of

her,—as that “ her name was *Prado*, a
 “ dependant on Lady Foster, and a *pre-*
 “ *tended* niece of Mr. Osmond’s, with
 “ whom she went away voluntarily from
 “ her aunt’s in Kent, the beginning of
 “ last month : that Mr. Osmond was an
 “ immense fine gentleman ; but, she sup-
 “ posed, Miss Prado was again eloped
 “ from him, as she had done once be-
 “ fore.” Spite, and some disgust at The
 Willows on this lady’s account, might
 give a willingness and poignancy to this
 relation to her disadvantage : but the ac-
 count, however malicious, was true in her
 apprehension, who was a stranger to Miss
 Osmond’s real name and character, and
 all those transactions, which more inter-
 ested friends had been let into. She said
 only what she heard from her confidant
 Mr. Puller ; and the incident may not be
 quite useless, if this lady’s conduct, and
 unkind forwardness in believing and com-
 municating, should offer a caution against
 too great a credulity in reports affecting
 the reputation of others, or too great a
 pleasure in spreading the ill-natured tale.

Mrs.

Mrs. Craven's depreciating account had the expected and natural effect on her audience ; who, upon Captain H——'s joining them, raillied him on his knight-errantry ; and hearing he had put her into a chaise, and that she was gone a contrary way, reproached him for his want of gallantry in not taking her with him. He seriously asserted there was no appearance of levity in her behaviour ; and that the innocence and dignity of her aspect chastised every thought, which her beauty of person might otherwise have raised. But, upon hearing Mrs. Craven's account, and being certain, from her own confession of her uncle, she was the identical person, tho' she called herself by a different name, he began to entertain the same sentiments of her with the rest of the company. Miss Osmond pursued her journey unmolested some miles, till she was met by Trailer and his partisans ; who, upon missing her, had dispatched scouts to the road, in order to gain intelligence of her ; one of whom meeting a returned baggage-waggon, and describing her to the driver,

was informed in what manner, and to what town, she was conveyed. Mr. Trailer, on this information, set out, designing to demand her of the commanding officer, having framed a plausible story, that he questioned not would answer his purpose; but unexpectedly meeting her chaise, he obliged the post-boy, by threats, to drive her to a lane leading to Mr. Osmond's house, when he took her out by force; and, discharging the chaise, conveyed her in his arms into the barricaded apartment; and having reproached her for her elopement, told her, she must impute her straiter confinement to her own conduct, and locking the door after him, left her to her reflections. How bitter they were, is left to the imagination of every humane heart! A thousand times did she lament her removal from the tranquil life she led in Suffex: but when she considered a continuance there would have been disagreeable to her parent, and she had done but her duty in complying with his injunctions, a ray of hope darted through her confused imagination, and she began

to think it not impossible, that she might be relieved from her present durance, by means as little expected as the fire the preceeding morning.

Whilst she was flattering herself with this notion, her door unlocked, and her uncle appeared. At sight of him her fears returned, and she begged him on her knees to restore her to her friends. He answered, " You are a dear perverse girl: you have no friend in the nation, who will deserve that title better than myself: and, as to your favourite Mortimer, (swearing a tremendous oath) " if he presumes to dispute it with me, one of our lives shall be the forfeiture." This appearance of impetuosity, and the threat that accompanied it, so terrified her, that, in a suppliant tone, she desired him to desist from his purpose; assuring him, she would bind herself by any conditions never to marry that gentleman; and, in the vehemence of her passion, knelt down before him, and called heaven to witness the truth of her promise. He seemed a little pacified by this assurance, and began to talk of his

Platonic scheme; and her continuance with him. She answered as she had done to his agent; and added, ‘ You have the power
 ‘ to confine me in this inhospitable mansion, but never will I consent to lead the
 ‘ life you propose. Forbid it heaven! forbid it virtue! Oh, Sir, do you forbid it
 ‘ by your honour, as a gentleman, I beseech you! by your relation to me, by
 ‘ your humanity! suffer me to tread the
 ‘ paths of innocence, and recover the reputation and peace you are labouring to
 ‘ forfeit.’ — “ Z——’s,” said he, “ shall
 “ a whining girl preach me from the settled purpose of my soul, which all my
 “ desires urge me to support?” Then, enraged that he could gain nothing from her by threats or intreaties, he introduced the servant, who before lay in her chamber, and withdrew, locking them both in. At his departure she returned to her lamentations, and was not to be prevailed with by the servant to eat a morsel of the most delicate viands, conveyed into her room, or attempt going into bed;

but, seating herself in a chair, she passed the night in prayers for a release.

CHAP. II.

MISS Osmond, who had neither closed her eyes, nor changed her dress, from the time her uncle turned the key of her apartment, was sitting weeping in a chair, between three and four in the morning, when Trailer burst into the room; and, with all the marks of terror and rage in his countenance, snatched her up in his arms, and, without uttering a syllable, carried her down a back staircase into a little paved yard, where poultry was kept, and thrust her into an hovel, in which was a nest of young partridges the housekeeper was endeavouring to rear; which being too low for her to stand upright in, he forced her to sit down on an old hamper, and gagging her with a cambrick handkerchief, and fastening her hands behind her with his garter, clapt a padlock on the door, leaving her in agonies, easier to be imagined than described.

She supposed his design was to terrify her into a compliance with Mr. Osmond's proposals; and, dreadful as her situation was, collected all her fortitude, firmly resolving to suffer any punishment, even death itself, rather than voluntarily continue under his roof upon any terms. But she was happily mistaken in her conjectures, as to the cause of this cruel treatment, as the event shewed. Colonel L——, being engaged by promise to pass the evening with some officers of his acquaintance, before they encamped, arrived a few hours after her departure from the inn, and, in the circle of toasts, *his* being required, he gave Miss Osmond, which occasioned a universal smile round the table. Captain H—— asked if the lady mentioned was fair or brown.—“*Fair as the fairest of her lovely kind;*” replied he. “But why that question, Captain H——? did you suppose I should give you a dowdy?”—“No, Colonel; but a romantic adventure I have been engaged in this morning, with a lady of that name, occasioned the query.” He then

then related the time and manner in which he met her, and all that came within his knowledge relative to that event, not omitting her own account of herself, or that Mrs. Craven had given of her. The Colonel, after lending him attention, related her genuine history, as he had received it from Lady Foster; and it had such an effect upon his company, that each condemned himself for suffering her to depart unattended." "Truly," cried the Colonel, "that circumstance considered, "you cannot be deemed the most gallant "corps in the service."—"I offered," said Captain H——, "to escort her part of "the way; but our march to-morrow at "so early an hour must prevent my attending her to Windsor; and as she "peremptorily refused me that honour, I "though it rude to insist upon it." At this instant the landlord appeared, and told the gentlemen the post-chaise was returned, and that the boy gave a strange account of the lady's being taken out of it by three *Rogues*, who carried her down a lane, about sixteen miles off. The boy
was

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called in, and examined; when Colonel L—— said, it was evident Miss Osmond was again in the power of the wretches from whom she escaped that morning; and, rising from the table, apologized to the gentlemen for leaving them so abruptly. Some of the younger officers proposed going in a posse in search of Mr. Osmond's house, which, by her account, could not be far from the place where Captain H—— found her, and by forcible means rescuing her; saying, they might be back time enough to pursue their route. But Colonel L—— objected to this expedient, which would cause a great alarm in the country; and said, more legal measures must be taken.

Being directed by the host to a proper magistrate, on a representation of his suspicions, he obtained a search warrant for the lady; and, accompanied by two constables, and his own servants, set out at two in the morning, in a post-chaise, driven by the boy who conveyed Miss Osmond, to whom he gave orders to take down the lane the lady had been carried into, and
pursue

pursue that road till he reached an house. He observed these orders ; and the colonel was parlying with Mr. Osmond, whose house he had entered, and demanded the lady, when Trailer slipp'd away, and secured her in the manner I have related. Mr. Osmond denied her being there; but, upon the colonel's producing the warrant, and commanding the constables to perform their office, and attend him in his search, Trailer, who was by this time returned to them, tipping a significant wink upon him, he no longer opposed their search ; telling the colonel he had no occasion for the warrant, for he gave him free leave to convince himself she was not there ; swearing a multitude of oaths, that he knew not where she was. The colonel, giving no credit to his assertions, suffered not a closet, or any part of the house from the top to the bottom, to escape his inspection ; but finding no lady, was greatly chagrined ; and passing through a scullery, the last place he examined, he found himself in the poultry-yard ; from whence he proceeded to take his chaise.

C H A P.

C H A P. III.

AS Colonel L—— was going out of the poultry yard, a young pointer he had with him, approached him with a white fatten slipper in his mouth, which he dropped at his feet; and, attracted by the scent of the birds, ran back to Miss Osmond's prison. His master's suspicions being roused by this incident, he called to the constables, and ordered them to force open that place; saying, "We will hunt the slipper." Finding the lady in the manner Trailer had left her, with one of her feet on the cold pavement, without a slipper, which she had dropped at the entrance, in her struggle, he instantly released her; who was in such consternation, that she had not the power of speech, nor the least sensibility of the person to whom she was indebted for relief; but, in a state of stupefaction, was conveyed by him into the chaise, unmolested by Mr. Osmond and his associate, who absconded, on their attempt to force the door. They had
pro-

proceeded some miles on their journey before she was sensible by whom she was attended, or whither she was going: but the motion of the vehicle, and the colonel's voice, who acquainted her with the measures he had pursued for her rescue, and his intentions of carrying her to Doctor Trew's, rousing her from her state of insensibility, she vented grateful acknowledgments for the trouble he had taken. But the sudden transition from the depth of despair, to the joyous certainty of a release from the enemies to her quiet, had such an effect upon her ruffled spirits, that the colonel, who perceived she had scarce strength to utter her gratitude, begged her to compose herself, and not to speak a syllable more, till she had taken some refreshment, which he proposed to procure her at the first house they should reach. She, though extremely faint, could not avoid thanking him for his solicitude for her health; and said, Mr. Capel lived ten miles short of the doctor's, and she could very well support her spirits till they arrived there, where she was certain of a welcome

welcome reception, and it would be more agreeable than a publick house. Accordingly, when they reached Mr. Capel's, they alighted, and were received by him and Mrs. Norfolk in the kindest manner, to whom the colonel accounted for her appearance. This gentleman and lady insisted upon her resting herself there at least till next day; and the colonel promising to proceed to the doctor's, and inform that family with her situation, she consented. Mr. Capel having engaged to carry her home in his equipage, Colonel L—— sent his chaise back, and mounting his led horse, made for Doctor Trew's. Not finding him at home, he imparted the account of his successful expedition to Mrs. Orrice, from whom he learned that the earl's family were in the country, and went immediately thither. Lady Bab received him with an unusual gravity of countenance, of which love gave him a quick sensibility: however, he soon resumed his accustomed gaiety, and said, “ If
 “ I had not secured an uncommon store
 “ of philosophy to support me under a
 “ mortifi-

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“ mortification, that which your ladyship
 “ is pleased to give me would reduce me
 “ to a pitiable condition. I, who, to speak
 “ but modestly, deserve the most gracious
 “ reception for what I have done, to meet
 “ with constrained countenances, and stiff
 “ compliments!” as,— ‘ *I hope, Sir, you*
 ‘ *have enjoyed health, since we last saw you :’*--
 “ and *that* uttered with the air and solem-
 “ nity of Mrs. Manfly! pray heaven she
 “ has not infected you. But dear Lady
 “ Bab, what dire misfortune occasions this
 “ appearance of dejection? Has pug broke
 “ his chain, or the Chinese mandarins?
 “ or any accident happened to the paro-
 “ quet?”—‘ I am not in a jesting humour,
 ‘ colonel; and I think your good breeding
 ‘ might suggest a more serious cause for
 ‘ my dejection.’—“ I will tell you,” said
 the earl; “ the distress of an amiable
 “ young lady, torn from her friends by
 “ forcible means, and in all probability
 “ in the power of an execrable villain,
 “ has affected Lady Bab’s spirits.”—‘ If
 ‘ that be the case, Madam,’ returned the
 colonel, ‘ what reward would you willing-
 ‘ ly

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' ly bestow upon the knight errant, who
 ' should, by stratagem or prowess, rescue
 ' this fair friend from the monster, and
 ' restore her safe to you?'—"Whoever
 " had the gallantry to undertake such an
 " enterprize," replied she, "would think
 " success in it sufficient reward; and I
 " should esteem myself everlastingly
 " obliged by the attempt."—"How
 ' happy then am I, Madam, in being able
 ' to draw such a confession from you! Be-
 ' hold in me the person (forgive me if
 ' I strut a little) to whom you have ac-
 ' knowledged an obligation; and that,
 ' everlasting. But I must own there is
 ' another, to whom you are primarily in-
 ' debted for her release.'—"I don't know,
 " colonel, what to think of your speech,
 " you are so accustomed to raillery: but
 " pray do you know any thing of Miss
 " Osmond?"—"I left her two hours
 ' since at Mr. Capel's, Madam.'—"Where
 " is the assistant that you mentioned, co-
 " lonel?"—"With the servants, I suppose,
 ' Madam; for as he is not much used to
 ' the company of ladies, though he is my
 ' com-

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‘ companion, I left him without.’—“ I
 “ beg he may be introduced,” said the
 countess: “ and I cannot think how you
 “ came to be so ceremonious all of a sud-
 “ den.” Upon this he quitted the room, and
 returned with the pointer. ‘ Come hither,
 ‘ Pero,’ cried he. ‘ I must tell you, ladies,
 ‘ to the sagacity of this faithful attendan t
 ‘ I am obliged for the discovery of Miss
 ‘ Osmond, who might, but for him, have
 ‘ been cooped up with the patridges till
 ‘ this time; and from henceforth I ex-
 ‘ pect he should be as much esteemed as
 ‘ *Le Chien Savant*.’ The humour of this
 ‘ incident diverted the ladies from their
 gravity; and the manner in which he re-
 lated his conduct in the enterprise he un-
 dertook that morning, had such an effect
 upon the company, that the utmost cheer-
 fulness succeeded. The colonel, who de-
 served, and appeared, to be as happy as
 any person present, took the earl aside,
 and told him he was not so, nor ever
 should, till he had gained Lady Barbara’s
 consent to the union he had so long soli-
 cited; adding, ‘ from her behaviour in
 ‘ regard

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‘ regard to Miss Osmond, I discern such
 ‘ an amiable disposition as has increased
 ‘ the fervor of my affection, which I be-
 ‘ fore thought incapable of any addition.
 ‘ What halcyon days may a man expect
 ‘ to experience in the society of a lady,
 ‘ who, with all the exterior charms of her
 ‘ sex, is possessed of an understanding su-
 ‘ perior to most of it, and the most agree-
 ‘ able vivacity, without the least tincture
 ‘ of levity, and a heart capable of so deli-
 ‘ cate a friendship! In short, my lord, if
 ‘ you will not intercede for me, and I
 ‘ should unfortunately miss so valued a
 ‘ prize, notwithstanding the trite jests I
 ‘ have passed upon despairing enamou-
 ‘ rato’s, I find my life will be a blank.’—
 “ Your confession is too honest not to
 “ merit my intercession,” said the earl;
 “ which, for your consolation, I can now
 “ tell you, I think you have little occa-
 “ sion for, as I apprehend you have by
 “ this time secured a more powerful ad-
 “ vocate in her own breast.” The colo-
 nel, elated with his supposition, returned
 to the ladies, and entertained them with
 agreeable

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agreeable topics of conversation, till they retired to their respective apartments; having been invited by his lordship to pass some days there. Doctor Trew, at his return home, had been agreeably surpris'd with his niece's account of Miss Osmond's rescue, which he immediately transmitted by an especial messenger to Lady Foster; and next morning, having received a card of invitation from Mr. Capel, informing him he had prevail'd with Miss Osmond to stay a few days at his house, went thither as soon as his emissary returned from The Willows, with a letter for Miss Osmond.

C H A P. IV.

Lady Foster, To Miss Osmond.

The Willows,
July 2, 1757.

I Beg, my dear, you would make my acknowledgments to good Doctor Trew, for the happy tidings he transmitted last night. I leave to your imagination to guess, from the affection I bear

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bear you, the uneasiness I endured at the report of your seizure; and nothing but the joy I experience from the account of your release, could be adequate to it. Your prudential behaviour in the case of Mr. Mortimer, merits my applause. I am concerned for him; tho' I hope he will, upon mature consideration, acquiesce in your proposal of everlasting friendship. — You will doubtless meet with other offers of this nature; and the same good sense and heart, which dictated your conduct in this affair, will direct your choice. I cannot flatter you with the prospect of a gentleman of his large fortune falling to your lot; but hope no one beneath him in morality, sense, and good-nature, will induce you to change your condition. Circumstanced as you are, if such a one as I wish your partner for life should offer, and meet with your approbation, the sooner you accept him the better, in your unprotected state. Mr. Haws has informed his father, that he was last week married to Kitty Purl, an apprentice to a famous milaner, and I find, the same girl

girl he attended to Vauxhall. The old gentleman, at the first information, was in great wrath ; but, upon being assured she is a woman of an unexceptionable character, and derives her birth from an ancient and worthy family, was so far reconciled, as to invite them down, and promise, if she would content herself with inspecting his household, and reside at Oak-hall during his life, without attempting a London journey, he would receive her as a parent. The young woman, who has a good share of practic sense, wrote a grateful letter for this condescension, as she judiciously termed it ; and, with her husband, came down the following day. The morning after her arrival, her father-in-law conducted her into the store-room and larder, expatiating on the virtue of good housewifery ; and, presenting her with a family manuscript, containing recipes, in such a diversity of hands and spelling, that she must find it a difficult task to render it legible, and a large bundle of thread-papers, told her, the proper use of

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these materials would procure his favour. She received them with great good-humour; and hearing him declare, at breakfast, that he had not eaten a good white-pot since his old house-keeper died, she with her own hands (tho' not without having recourse to the above-mentioned manuscript) composed one, which was served up in the second course at dinner, and so pleased him, that in the evening he carried her up into my late sister's dressing-room, and put her into possession of her cabinet, containing her jewels, and other valuable curiosities.

My sister is afraid she is not well-bred, and is a little piqued at her omitting to send her a pair of *perfumed gloves*, and a *favour*. However, she has bespoke a set of salvers, in the old make, for her present.

I am much obliged to the doctor for sending me the *Estimate of the Manners and Principles of the Times*; the design and execution of which performance deserves a superior elogium that can come from a female pen: so I shall only say, that I
with

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wish it may have the desired effect on the
succeeding times; and am, with civilities
to every friend of yours,

Your faithful, humble servant,

M. FOSTER.

Miss Osmond, To Lady Foster.

—Parsonage,

July 6.

MY dear lady's last kind epistle found
me at Mr. Capel's, from whence
I returned to-day, tho' much importuned
to make a longer stay; which I should
have done, were I not convinced the civi-
lities I received proceeded from a motive
you can have no suspicion of: a declara-
tion of love from him, when accompanied
by the most honourable and advantageous
proposals, your ladyship may not appre-
hend a thing terrible enough to fright me
from his house; yet I own that this is the
case. He has a powerful advocate in the
doctor, to whom he has revealed his sen-
timents. But I have absolutely rejected
his offer, in as genteel terms as I could.
I am very sensible of the force of your ar-

gument in regard to a protector; but to me it appears ungenerous to make *that*, or the participation of an ample fortune, my view in so solemn an engagement, whilst my heart is disinterested. I am sensible of every valuable quality Mr. Capel possesses, and think myself honoured by his good opinion; but cannot think of binding myself by a vow of reciprocal affection, which I do not feel on my part, and know not whether I ever shall. I know not what and whence that secret impulse or instinct is, which disposes, and almost forces, to a conjugal union with one man, in preference of a thousand, perhaps as much, or more deserving. That such a thing is, I am certain; but how it is, is the wonder. Is there a sex or kindred in souls? Is it from heaven, or earth? People in love I have heard talk of their stars; and of good stars and bad stars: I have either not gazed at them enough, or I have not yet discerned mine. My time is not come, I suppose.—I applaud Mr. Haws's prudence, which I think must produce happiness to the whole family;

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mily; a consequence not to be expected from Mrs. Craven's superior fortune, with her different bent of inclination. I shall proceed to transcribe a letter I received from Lady Bab yesterday, on the doctor's communicating to her Mr. Capel's proposals.

Lady Barbary S——, To Miss Osmond.

Saturday Night,

June 4, 1757.

IF I were not more than half-angry with you, I should congratulate you on your escape from the vile fellows. But you are quite a chit, in refusing such a protection as Mr. Capel offers; a man who has every qualification to recommend him as an husband. Indeed, child, I must tell you, it is very extraordinary that two such unexceptionable lovers should, in such a space of time, be attracted even by *your* acknowledged superior accomplishments; and it will be little less than a miracle, if you meet with a third of the like character. I will suppose you intend following my example

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some time or other, otherwise I must retract my promise given to my red coat man; who would so plume himself on his conquest, that I could not bear it. No; I insist upon it, that you do not give me the mortification of imagining you have more resolution in such a case than I; and charge you to treat your lover with less indifference, or you will incur the displeasure of

Your (hitherto) affectionate friend,

BARBARA S——.

Now, my dear guardian, I fear you will be of Lady Bab's opinion; and sorry am I to dissent from either: but I hope the substantial reason I have given for declining Mr. Capel's addresses, will not appear absurd to you: and as to her humorous ladyship, her case and mine are by no means parallel. The colonel has, by long services, merited a return of affection; and she certainly is disposed to make a suitable one, or she would not have given the promise she mentions. My cousin Mortimer has taken the opportunity of
my

my late deliverance, to congratulate me upon it, and my behaviour under it, and to renew his suit, by all the arguments of tenderness and generosity; and hopes the sincerity and strength of his regards for me will plead his excuse for desiring me to revoke that sentence, which forbids his further application of that sort. He says, among other things, that diversity of opinion, in speculative points, can be no reasonable hindrance to the union of hearts, and glow of affection: that religion, the Christian in particular, was the most social and affectionate system in the world; and he should be led to suspect something was wrong, or misapprehended, in that profession of religion, which should forbid the nearest and dearest connection between two hearts, made, if he might judge by his own, for each other: that so strong a desire, upon the principles of virtue, was not given in vain; and he thought it his duty to pursue it, till he saw an utter impossibility of attainment: that we might each day, even in matters of opinion, come nearer to each other,

till no difference remained; and supports his judgment by that of the most learned and pious divine of our own church, who does not scruple to assert, that if all the opinions of different sects of Christians, who deserve the name of churches, and have had any great spread in the world, were to be set down in one column, and only all, in which they agreed, were to be placed in another, there would be found in the latter Christianity whole and entire.

—I think myself obliged to send you a copy of my answer which runs thus.—

Dear Sir,

FOR so I do not blush to call you, and so I will ever call and think you, as you are one of the most valuable of men, one who is my near relation, and has laid me under the greatest obligations that one of my sex is capable of from one of yours. But, alas! it is my concern, as well as yours, that I cannot proceed further. Difference of religion was the only objection I made to your first generous proposal, and it still remains an unfurmountable

mountable obstacle to your ardent renewal of it: and the fond hope you mention of a possibility of our coming nearer and nearer to each other in these matters, convinces me of the justness of my sentiments: especially, when I reflect on the superiority of your sense, and the meanness of mine.—I am sensible religion has been often alleged, and put on, by the worst of people, for the worst of purposes: but if religion was not the best and strongest reason for acting, it would not be pretended to by bad people, as an unanswerable excuse for bad actions. But I no more suspect the uprightness of your heart and intentions, than I do my own: and could I suppose either capable of giving up, or even endangering, so sacred a trust, as religious persuasion, I should despise and detest both. Besides, (I tremble at the remembrance) Accident has made such an union, as you solicit, impossible for me to grant, and improper for you any more to ask. My wicked uncle, while on my knees I was in the instant apprehension for my life, or what I valued more

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than life, reproached me with a prepossession in favour of Mr. Mortimer, and swore you should have me on no other terms than the loss of your life, or his own. In this tumult of distress, I told him, my religion, inconsistent with yours, had made me reject your proposal. Under that settled resolution, in order to pacify his resentful fury to you and me, I, on my knees, called Heaven to witness to my promise of never receiving you for a husband. Thus, dear Sir, you see Heaven, and all that is sacred and tremendous, stands between us; and you may be, and are earnestly desired to be, the friend, but you never can be the husband, of

Your PHOEBE OSMOND.

I have the satisfaction of an answer from him; in which he says, since things are cruelly so, he must acquiesce in the only favour left me to grant him, that of my friendship, which will always give him a tormenting pleasure. Love me he always must; but it shall, it must be within the limits

limits prescribed him.—I hear Lady Osmond is very ill, and has desired her son would make Dover-street his residence, during the short space she supposes she has to live. Mrs. Orrice's affairs are in a prosperous way, and Mrs. Curtis, beyond expectation chearful; and could I hear of my dear father's welfare, surrounded as I am by indulgent friends, I should subscribe myself,

Your truly happy, and
most grateful humble servant,

PHOEBE OSMOND.

CHAP. V.

Colonel L——, having happily obtained Lady Barbara's consent to their marriage, went to town on the day she wrote to Miss Osmond, to order some necessary paraphernalia, against that occasion; and meeting Sir John Emlin, communicated his success. The Baronet congratulated him on his approaching felicity, and enquired after Miss Osmond. "I saw her in Oxfordshire on Thursday."

answered he; "in such an apartment, as
 "I should think it beneath a private cen-
 "tinel to occupy; and whatever you may
 "do, I can tell you, I know the length of
 "her foot."—"What do you mean? Co-
 "lonel? and how came she in such a
 "place?"—"Why, you must know, Sir
 "John, she set out on a ramble on Mon-
 "day night, and, by the assistance of bag-
 "gage-waggon, post-chaises, constables,
 "soldiers, and puppies, she is returned
 "to Doctor Trew's."—"I do not in the
 "least comprehend your meaning, Colo-
 "nel; and beg you would immediately ex-
 "plain it, for I am upon a rack."—"Well
 "then, Sir John, to prove my merciful
 "disposition, I will relieve you, as I
 "have done her."—He then recounted to
 him what had befallen her since her ill-
 ness; and concluded with Mr. Capel's
 offer, and the interest all her friends took
 in that gentleman's suit. "And does she
 "receive him in a favourable manner?"
 cried the Baronet. "Why should she
 "not?" said the Colonel; "tho' he has
 "a rival of three times his fortune, and

"a

“ a very pretty fellow, I assure you.”—
 ‘ It was cruel in you, Colonel, not to give
 ‘ me the authentic history of her family,
 ‘ as soon as you learnt it, knowing as you
 ‘ did my sentiments of her, whilst that was
 ‘ obscured, and my apprehensions of being
 ‘ supplanted or prevented in her esteem.”
 —“ I think, Sir John, it is some time
 “ since Lady Bab imparted that to you ;
 “ and I don’t find you have yet given her
 “ Ladyship, or any of Miss Osmond’s
 “ friends, the least intimation of your in-
 “ clinations; but, if you persevere in
 “ them, instead of dissuading you, as I
 “ did formerly, I will do you all the ser-
 “ vice in my power.”—‘ Spoke like a
 ‘ friend, Colonel. But can I have the
 ‘ vanity to hope for any success, whilst
 ‘ two such formidable rivals pretend to
 ‘ her?’—“ I cannot flatter you with hopes,
 “ Sir John, as it is impossible to judge
 “ who will be agreeable to her ; but, for
 “ your comfort, no one, that has yet
 “ offered, has been so.”—‘ How are you
 ‘ sure of that, Colonel?’—“ From her own
 “ confession, Sir.”—‘ And are you so far
 ‘ favoured

‘favoured with her confidence, Colonel?’
 —“I am so far honoured with it, as to
 “have the permission to peruse the letters
 “between her and Lady Bab, on the oc-
 “casion, and have underhand seen her
 “reasons for rejecting these gentlemen;
 “but can see none against your making
 “an application: tho’, as I said before, I
 “cannot warrant success; she is of such a
 “disposition, there is no forming a judg-
 “ment from her behaviour:

*Favours to none, to all she smiles extends;
 Oft she rejects, but never once offends.*

“Will you accompany me to Doctor
 “Trew’s to-morrow? Or do you rather
 “chuse your chaise should break down at
 “his gate, or your horse sling you, or to
 “lose a dog, who by instinct may find his
 “way thither? I have known some tre-
 “mulous lovers make use of such intro-
 “ductory stratagems.”—‘To be serious,
 ‘Colonel, it would be more agreeable to
 ‘me, if you would endeavour to sound
 ‘her sentiments of me, to whom she is
 ‘not quite a stranger; for I could better
 ‘receive

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‘ receive a repulse from any mouth, than
‘ her own.’—“ Well, Sir John, hard as
“ the task is, with Lady Bab’s assistance,
“ I will undertake to perform it. In the
“ mean time keep clear of Rosamond’s
“ pond.”—‘ Pray, Colonel, what punish-
‘ ment have you inflicted on the vile un-
‘ cle?’—“ Deprived him of her. But
“ Miss Osmond, by the advice of Mr.
“ Capel and others, is bringing an action
“ against Trailer and him, for an assault
“ upon the highway.—I learn, from emis-
“ saries I have employed to watch the
“ motions of him and his family, that his
“ Lady Mother, having had information
“ of what passed between him and me, is
“ in dreadful apprehensions of my sword;
“ and, thinking a rencounter must be the
“ consequence, has wheedled him, by a
“ sham fit of sickness, into her house; where
“ every domestic has orders to acquaint
“ her immediately with the looks and
“ gestures of any person that demands
“ an audience of him, and to bring every
“ letter, addressed to him, to her first,
“ lest it should contain a challenge.”—

‘ Who

‘ Who is this Trailer, that associates with
 ‘ Osmond, Colonel?’—“ He is,” answered
 the Colonel, “ the only child of a wealthy
 “ usurer, who, by furnishing unexpe-
 “ rienced young fellows with cash at an
 “ exorbitant interest, amassed near a
 “ plumb, which he proposed at his de-
 “ cease should devolve to his son, whom
 “ he educated in his counting-house, and
 “ who having a turn for intrigue, rather
 “ than arithmetic, engaged in one with
 “ his landress; but, not being able to
 “ obtain her consent on the terms he pro-
 “ posed, he privately married her. How-
 “ ever, his behaviour soon reduced his
 “ wife to the necessity of revealing the
 “ secret to some people, or starving. By
 “ this means she procured a few of the
 “ necessaries of life, which he must either
 “ pay for, or run the risk of his father’s
 “ displeasure by a revelation of the secret
 “ to him. A bill being brought him one
 “ day, which she had contracted, and he
 “ was unwilling to discharge, so loud an
 “ altercation passed between him and the
 “ creditor, as awakened his father, who
 “ had

“ had been sleeping in a room adjoining;
 “ and hearing distinctly all that was said
 “ on both sides, he sent immediately for
 “ a lawyer, and made his will, in which he
 “ bequeathed all his wealth to a younger
 “ brother of his own, except one thousand
 “ pounds to his son; and being taken
 “ with an apoplexy the following day, in
 “ which he expired, he had not the capa-
 “ city, if he had the inclination, to re-
 “ tract it. This uncle of Trailer’s was a
 “ truly worthy man; and as he was en-
 “ tirely unacquainted with his brother’s
 “ reasons for so partial and unexpected a
 “ bequest, very generously presented his
 “ nephew with a moiety of it, and offered
 “ him his only child in marriage, to
 “ whom he engaged at his death to give
 “ the remainder. Trailer was villain
 “ enough to accept this offer, and married
 “ the lady, continuing his visits to his
 “ former wife, whom he had now the
 “ power to bribe to secrecy. But soon
 “ launching into all kinds of extravagance
 “ and debauchery, he dissipated his for-
 “ tune. The old gentleman, perceiving
 “ the

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“ the course he was in, and that all re-
 “ monstrances against it were ineffectual,
 “ and having by the marriage articles put
 “ it out of his power to hinder his suc-
 “ cession to his whole fortune, died of a
 “ broken heart in five years, leaving his
 “ daughter one of the most miserable of
 “ human beings: for the wretch, not sa-
 “ tisfied with treating her in the most
 “ contemptuous manner, terrified her, by
 “ threats of further ill usage, to relinquish
 “ her jointure; and in two years after,
 “ losing the greatest part at a gaming-
 “ table, returned home in so diabolical
 “ a humour, that he offered to put her
 “ out of his house; telling her, she had
 “ no right to incumber him, for she was
 “ not his legal wife. The shock this in-
 “ formation gave her, had the desired
 “ effect; for the poor creature fell into
 “ fits, and expired; leaving a daughter
 “ about six years old, whom one of her
 “ mother’s relations has taken to educate,
 “ and from whom I had this detail. Since
 “ that time he has supported himself
 “ chiefly by pimping for others, and in
 “ that

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“that capacity only is received amongst
“the most dissolute of mankind. I have
“often been concerned, that his crimes
“have hitherto escaped the legislative au-
“thority; but his attempt against Miss
“Osmond’s liberty coming within that,
“I think he must suffer.” The Colonel
having concluded this narrative, Sir John
reminded him of his promise, and they
separated.

CHAP. VI.

LADY Bab and Colonel L—, highly delighted with the task Sir John Emlin had set them, made a visit to Miss Osmond next day; in which the latter, taking occasion to mention his late interview with the baronet, the conversation turned on his merit and accomplishments; nor was Miss Osmond less reserved than the rest of the company, in bestowing encomiums on his distinguished character. The Colonel declared he knew no foible in it, except too great diffidence might be deemed one. “No, no great
“matter,”

“matter,” cried Lady Bab; “but yet I
 “cannot allow, in some cases, a consci-
 “ousness of a person’s own desert to be
 “blameable.”—‘Nor I,’ said Miss Os-
 mond; ‘who think bashfulness, arising
 ‘from want of education, and ignorance
 ‘of the world, can no more be deemed
 ‘modesty, than refraining from a luxu-
 ‘riant entertainment, when a person has
 ‘no appetite, can be called abstemious-
 ‘ness. But a modest behaviour, proceed-
 ‘ing from proper motives, merits the ap-
 ‘plause of our sex, I am sure.’—“Well,
 “Madam,” returned the Colonel, “to you
 “I appeal, who are so judicious a distin-
 “guisher, whether my assertion of Sir
 “John is right, or not. He is now about
 “seven-and-twenty; and having always
 “entertained a good opinion of the mar-
 “riage state, has been these two years
 “looking round the world for a suitable
 “partner in it; but never, till very lately,
 “met with a woman, whom his inclina-
 “tion and reason could approve as such;
 “and now the faultless fair-one is found,
 “and has given birth to the most ardent
 “and

“and delicate passion: the sublime idea
 “he has of her desert, and great diffi-
 “dence of his own, deters him from re-
 “vealing it to her, for fear of a repulse,
 “and renders his life unhappy. Will you
 “not allow, that a better opinion of his
 “own qualifications is necessary in this
 “case?”—“I allow, Sir, it would be
 ‘more for his ease; but if the lady be of
 ‘my sentiment, she will rather esteem him
 ‘for a respectful timidity, than a forward
 ‘freedom of behaviour.’—“*Esteem him!*”
 cried Lady Bab. “How should she suspect
 “that he desires her esteem, when he has
 “not the complaisance to tell her so? I
 “have no notion of a lover like Mrs.
 “Cibber’s statues.”—“I think,” said Miss
 Osmond, ‘from what I have heard and
 ‘seen of Sir John Emlin, he appears to
 ‘be as free from faults, and as likely to
 ‘attract the regard of a woman of merit,
 ‘as any of his sex, could he be acquitted
 ‘of the imputation of fickleness.’—“Has
 “any person, Madam,” said the Colonel,
 “affixed such to him?”—“I cannot say
 ‘they have, Sir; but I may infer it from
 ‘Lady

‘ Lady Bab’s account of him, when we
 ‘ saw him at Vauxhall.’ — “ I know what
 “ you mean,” said her ladyship; “ but
 “ I was quite misinformed, as to that
 “ affair.” The arrival of other company
 broke off this conference, and the topic
 was not resumed that day. On the suc-
 ceeding one, Colonel L—— made a re-
 port of it to Sir John Emlin; who was so
 far encouraged by it, as to return with
 him to the Earl’s, where he passed a
 fortnight, in which time he had frequent
 interviews with the amiable object of his
 affections; each of which tended to in-
 crease his esteem, and excite the highest
 opinion of him in her. One evening, after
 Lady Bab and Miss Osmond had been
 walking an hour by themselves, he thought
 the latter treated him with unusual reserve;
 and construing it into a bad omen, was
 very uneasy. He took the first opportu-
 nity of asking her Ladyship, if she could
 account for Miss Osmond’s reserve: say-
 ing, he feared it proceeded from some
 dislike to him. Lady Bab, having col-
 lected her whole stock of gravity into her
 countenance,

countenance, replied; "I would advise
 "you, Sir John, to retire to your Hun-
 "tingdonshire seat, where you may be
 "furnished with willows of all sizes, to
 "chuse a proper one, on which to make
 "your decent exit; for she has positively
 "declared to me, she should reject your
 "suit, if offered." The chagrin he suf-
 fered from this speech appearing visibly
 in his countenance, and the faulting ac-
 cent in which he demanded her objections,
 induced Lady Bab to relate all that had
 passed between her and Miss Osmond, re-
 lative to him.

C H A P. VII.

LA D Y Barbara had designedly drawn
 Miss Osmond from the rest of the
 company, and made Sir John Emlin the
 subject of their discourse; in the course of
 which, Miss Osmond asked how long he
 had been acquainted with the lady Colo-
 nel L—— had mentioned. "I cannot
 "exactly ascertain the time," returned
 she; "but I believe not many months.
 "Long

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“ Long enough, tho’, I should think, to
 “ discern merit so conspicuous as his.”
 —“ Indeed I am of your Ladyship’s opi-
 ‘ nion; and see no occasion for such appre-
 ‘ hensions as his friend intimates.’—“ I
 “ have a great mind,” said Lady Bab,
 “ to tell him what you say.”—“ That
 ‘ would not be dealing quite fairly with
 ‘ me; since your Ladyship must be sensible
 ‘ that I should not have delivered my sen-
 ‘ timents so freely to any other person, nor
 ‘ of him at all, were he not circum-
 ‘ stanced as he is.’—“ Well then, child,
 “ as affairs are, would you be his advo-
 “ cate, if you had any influence with his
 “ favourite lass?”—“ I really would.”—
 “ He is much obliged to you. But sup-
 “ pose, instead of requiring your sollicita-
 “ tions, he should address *you*, on the re-
 “ port of your favourable opinion?”—
 “ Why, Madam, that would forfeit it
 “ at once.”—“ You are an unaccount-
 “ able girl, to applaud a man’s character,
 “ and think him worthy the acceptance
 “ of a woman of the highest merit,
 “ and

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“ and yet take a declaration of love from
“ him as an offence.”— ‘ Your ladyship
‘ must give me leave to clear up this point.
‘ If you and the Colonel have represented
‘ his case fairly, I suppose him worthy my
‘ recommendation; and had I the opportunity
‘ of performing that office, should do
‘ it with pleasure: but if, after all, you
‘ suspect him capable of dividing his heart,
‘ I should beg leave to be excused, thinking
‘ it of little worth to any body.’—
“ Thou art a romantic girl. Pray, my
“ dear, have you determined to reject the
“ proposals of every one, who has had a
“ prior passion for another? If so, you
“ might as well have entered a convent at
“ Blois.”— ‘ My meaning does not extend
‘ so far, neither, Lady Bab. All I
‘ would say, is, that a man, who can
‘ easily transfer his affections to different
‘ objects, is, in my opinion, unworthy
‘ the regard I should chuse to have for
‘ him, whose name I was to wear; and
‘ I am not so vain as to imagine myself
‘ capable of retaining an heart accustomed
‘ to range; and therefore would

“ not attempt the experiment.”—“ And
 “ so, if Sir John Emlin offered his, you
 “ would reject it ?”—‘ Give me leave to
 ‘ say, I never heard your ladyship talk
 ‘ inconsistently before ; but, for your sa-
 ‘ tisfaction in that point, I declare that I
 ‘ should : and know not whether I have
 ‘ not some reason to be offended by a con-
 ‘ trary supposition.’—“ Indeed, my dear,
 “ you take me in too serious a sense. I
 “ pitched upon the subject for chat sake ;
 “ but, since we have carried it so far,
 “ you would oblige me, if you would tell
 “ me your objections to his person, for-
 “ tune, or character.”—‘ In compliance
 ‘ with your ladyship’s humour, I will
 ‘ confess his person is agreeable, his for-
 ‘ tune far above my expectations or desert,
 ‘ and his character hitherto unexception-
 ‘ able ; but, as I never propose changing
 ‘ my condition without the concurrence
 ‘ of my whole heart, I must not have the
 ‘ least suspicion that I supplant another,
 ‘ or participate my husband’s, with, pro-
 ‘ bably, a more deserving object.’

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The gentlemen joining the ladies, nothing more passed on the subject on either side. However, enough had been said to awaken Miss Osmond's suspicion; who could not avoid remarking the particular respect with which Sir John treated her; and which would not have been displeasing, had not the notion of inconstancy in his disposition given a check to the favourable sentiments arising in her mind towards him, and to which must be imputed the constraint of her behaviour.

C H A P. VIII.

Miss Osmond, To Lady Foster.

Dated from the Earl's,
July 21.

AS I have, by a packet, given you a punctual and circumstantial account of all that has happened since my late deliverance, even as far as the last odd conversation with the Colonel and Lady Barbara, about Sir John Emlin; I am now going to relate something which has happened since, and is likely to prove a

K 2

very

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very serious and interesting affair. I will endeavour to set down the whole as it passed, not omitting even the words of all the parties engaged in the dialogue you are going to hear, and to which I would have you imagine yourself present.

Your ladyship's conjecture of the reason of that gentleman's visit to The Willows, his assiduity, during my residence here, to make himself particularly agreeable to me, though he is always agreeable to all; but especially the last perplexing and sifting conversation of the colonel and the lady with me about him, led me to apprehend, I might expect, some time or other, an application from that quarter: but I did not expect it would happen so soon, or in the manner it did. It came upon me all on a sudden, and left me no time for taking measures: and to that cause you will please to impute it, if you find I have said or done any thing amiss. I was sitting alone in one of the temples in the garden, musing on many things, and among others, perhaps, upon Sir John; for I need not be now afraid to say, that the idea of him
was

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was no stranger to my thoughts, and often intruded, whether I gave it welcome, or not ; and, by often coming, had contracted a sort of familiarity with my solitudes : I was, I say, engaged in this train of thinking, when that gay thing, Lady Bab, broke in upon me, with Sir John in her hand, and this speech in her mouth :
“ Here : I have brought you the strangest
“ creature in the universe ; a man, over
“ head and ears in love with you ; and
“ yet unable, tho’ his life depends upon it,
“ to tell you so. He thinks, he dreams,
“ he talks, he looks, he admires, he imagines,
“ he breathes, nothing but you,
“ and about you ; and all this while he
“ lives in such a frozen climate, that his
“ words, tho’ issuing from an heart all on
“ fire, are congealed before they can reach
“ you. Though I have told him, you
“ had confessed to me the highest sentiments
“ of his person and accomplishments,
“ and had even offered to be his
“ advocate with the worthiest of women,
“ if you had interest and acquaintance
“ with such, under the character of the

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“ worthiest of men ; yet I was obliged by
 “ almost force of arms to drag him to
 “ this interview, and declaration, that he
 “ begs your address, and all your endear-
 “ ing irresistible arts of persuasion, to en-
 “ gage the favour of that worthiest of your
 “ sex, on which his whole future happi-
 “ ness turns. The lady is of your most
 “ intimate acquaintance ; and if you do
 “ not know her by this description, you
 “ need but shew it to all your acquaint-
 “ ance, and they will immediately tell
 “ you, it is yourself : at least, this love-
 “ sick soul would do so, if he could find
 “ the use of speech ; or rather, if he could
 “ find words expressive of his fond idea.
 “ It is true, he has seen you but a few
 “ months, but he has loved out whole
 “ ages in that time ; he has sighed, and
 “ wished, and raved, and talked, *to him-*
 “ *self*, enough to fill a folio volume ; but
 “ the sighs were so real, and the wishes so
 “ pure, and so ardent, as to be enough
 “ to weigh down the whole library of
 “ romantic passion and adventure. My
 “ fellow was a blusterer, a soldier, you
 “ know ;

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“ know ; so I was obliged to take some
 “ years to break him to use ; but this is
 “ the softest tenderest-mouthed thing in
 “ the world ; he is broke to your hands,
 “ and you may lead him with a thread
 “ which way you will.”—“ I know not,
 “ Lady Bab, whether you act quite fairly
 “ with me, when you divulge my senti-
 “ ments of this gentleman, which were
 “ drawn from me when I was not under
 “ the least suspicion of their having any
 “ relation to myself. However, I have
 “ no reason to retract, or blush at them,
 “ since they are the same with those of all
 “ the worthy part of his acquaintance.
 “ Besides, particular obligation makes one
 “ quicker to discern, and more willing to
 “ do justice to the merit of the obliger ;
 “ and I am under the greatest to this gen-
 “ tleman, for his generous rescue of me
 “ from the most unfortunate and afflictive
 “ situation ; and I fear I have been wanting
 “ in my respects for so affecting a fa-
 “ vour.”—“ Alas ! Madam,” said he,
 “ at the instant I was made the happy in-
 “ strument of giving you liberty, I lost

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“ my own: but, far from desiring to be paid
 “ in kind, I am undone, if you do not
 “ keep me still your willing prisoner, and
 “ permit all that is compassionate and ge-
 “ nerous in you to draw the chain still
 “ closer, till it brings me quite to you.”—
 ‘ Well set off!’ said the humorous lady. ‘ I
 ‘ protest I did not think it had been in him.
 ‘ What a power have we women over those
 ‘ pieces of clock-work, the men, to make
 ‘ them stand still, or go on and strike the
 ‘ hours! Now the thing has begun to tick,
 ‘ I fancy I may leave it to its own motion.’
 And so saying, away she went. I resumed--
 “ I was speaking, Sir, of my obligations
 “ to you: the reason I so rudely refused
 “ the kind offer of your conduct to my
 “ guardian, was a wrong account of your
 “ gaiety, and want of principle in the pur-
 “ suit of women, given me innocently by
 “ Mr. Haws, and suggested to him by a
 “ villain, for the purpose of making me
 “ decline your protection, and accept
 “ of that which might be more easily
 “ eluded. Under this prepossession, what-
 “ ever sentiments of you I might have
 “ enter-

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“ entertained from your conversation and
 “ behaviour, I did not think myself at
 “ liberty to attend to them ; since the
 “ most agreeable man of that character
 “ could be nothing to me. Your distant
 “ behaviour at Vauxhall, and the
 “ reason of it assigned by the company ; a
 “ reserve about a girl you had picked up
 “ upon the road, and was fallen desperately
 “ in love with ; all conspired to
 “ paint your morals in the same odious
 “ light. Yesterday’s conversation, indeed,
 “ had cleared up that matter : But Lady
 “ Bab, after she had led me to do justice
 “ to the qualities you are master of, still
 “ left upon you the stain of inconstancy,
 “ by asking me first, if I would intercede
 “ for you with a worthy lady ; and then,
 “ whether I would accept you, if you
 “ should change your love for that of the
 “ intercessor herself. I answered, with
 “ some degree of indignation at the suggestion,
 “ that I would not give a hearing to the proposal of a divided or
 “ changing heart, whatever came along
 “ with it.”—“ If that, Madam, is the
 “ only bar to my happiness,” replied he,

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' I am the happiest creature in the world.
 ' My heart never was, and never can be,
 ' any other's but yours: you fill it all,
 ' and there is no room, but for your
 ' dear self. Your image first took its seat
 ' there, and never can be removed thence,
 ' while a drop of vital blood remains in
 ' it. You were the person, degradingly
 ' called the *girl*, pick'd up upon the
 ' road, from nobody knows where, who
 ' filled my thoughts when alone, and my
 ' conversation in company. The very per-
 ' plexities, which your disguise of name,
 ' and other circumstances and accounts,
 ' threw me into, plead my excuse for the
 ' delay of my declaration; but at the same
 ' time they give a justness to my preten-
 ' sions, which aimed at such a one as
 ' Miss Osmond really is, the purest and
 ' most ingenuous of women; and would
 ' have been unworthy of her, if they could
 ' have been prostituted to Phoebe Prado,
 ' under the character of looseness, or
 ' fickleness of conduct. Possessed of all
 ' the materials for happiness, except that
 ' which was to crown or poison all; I
 ' was not negligent in my pursuit, or
 ' easy

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' easy in my choice, of a person of such
 ' concern to all my joys in life : but to
 ' no purpose, till adventure brought me
 ' to your acquaintance. At sight, I loved
 ' with passion ; and from further converse
 ' and knowledge, I loved with reason. I
 ' could not wean my soul from its fond-
 ' ness, when every appearance, but your
 ' own, was against it. I stood the raillery,
 ' I withstood the remonstrances, of my
 ' best friends ; I refused to listen to those
 ' of my own mind. I said a thousand
 ' times to myself, It is impossible ! Vice
 ' and impurity, intrigue and dissimulation,
 ' never wore that shape. If they could,
 ' our notions of good and bad must be
 ' disturbed and lost ; and earth, nay hell,
 ' might be heaven, and sense, and judg-
 ' ment, and apprehension, be confounded
 ' in one universal mistake—Not less fearful
 ' than desirous to know the truth, I made
 ' enquiry every-where, and every-where
 ' dreaded the result of my own enquiries.
 ' In the mean time I was distracted with
 ' jealousy of every one that did, or might,
 ' approach you ; and concluded every one

‘ must be my rival, who could see and
 ‘ converse with you ; and blamed those
 ‘ delays, which might make another the
 ‘ happiest, and me the most wretched, of
 ‘ men.’—“ In return, Sir” answered I,
 “ for the kind things you have been
 “ pleased to say, it is justice to give you
 “ that ease, if it is one, that I have not
 “ complied with any of those offers,
 “ which you may have heard have been
 “ made me, tho’ quite unexceptionable
 “ in the judgment of some of my friends.
 “ But I have always thought, that some-
 “ thing more than being without excep-
 “ tion, is required to constitute the hap-
 “ piness of the union you are speaking of;
 “ and that, as the first pair were made
 “ for each other, so all suited pairs ever
 “ since are constituted for their respective
 “ unions ; and some invisible power, in its
 “ proper time, directs the choice.”——
 ‘ If the power cannot be seen, Madam,’
 said he, ‘ I am sure it can be felt : I feel
 ‘ it, at this instant, acting irresistibly upon
 ‘ every faculty of my soul. O ! that there
 ‘ was a window in that fair bosom, that
 ‘ I might

' I might see what passes there !'—“ If
 “ there was, Sir, you might perhaps see
 “ nothing there that would greatly dis-
 “ please you. But whatever sentiments
 “ and inclinations may be there, they can
 “ be of no service to you, without the
 “ sanction of two parents, one my natu-
 “ ral one, abroad ; the other, at home ;
 “ who, tho' not so by my birth, will ever
 “ be so in my respect and regard to her
 “ judgment and authority.”—‘ You mean
 ‘ Lady Foster, Madam. The highest
 ‘ favour I can at present ask of you, is
 ‘ your consent to my consulting those dear
 ‘ relations on the occasion, and your per-
 ‘ mission to think myself, in the mean
 ‘ time, your admitted humble servant, and
 ‘ to indulge the pleasing hope of a name,
 ‘ which I shall value above that of kings.’

I believe my countenance expressed no-
 thing that was forbidding ; and I was just
 going to say something—when our fan-
 ciful lady returned with her lap full of
 fruit ; saying, as she entered, “ Well, all
 “ is over by this time, I suppose. Is it
 “ not ?” He answered, the lady had been
 so

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so good as to permit him to consult her friends. ‘Come, then,’ said she, ‘in my presence, kiss her hand.’ And upon his snatching it, and dwelling upon it some moments, she cried out, ‘Bless me! the man takes it with a witness, as if it was *to have and to hold*. No, no; this business must end with a more serious face, becoming the dignity and solemnity of the parties. Come hither; this is Eden, and you are the couple placed in it. Go you, Mr. Adam, at a respectful distance, this way; and you, Madam Eve, appear with modest state as far as I lead you. Now, Sir, I will suppose you have said all the proper things out of your poet, and have pronounced—

Giver of all things fair, but fairest this
Of all thy gifts!—

‘Now for *her*——

She heard me thus; and tho’ divinely brought,
Yet innocence and virgin modesty,
Her virtue, and the conscience of her worth,
That would be woo’d, and not unsought be won,
Wrought in her so, that, seeing me, she turn’d.

‘Now turn about’——

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I follow'd her ——

‘ That’s *your* part. Why does not the man
‘ move after her ?’

I follow'd her. She was what honour knew,
And, with obsequious majesty, approv'd
My pleaded reason ——

‘ So—enough for this time: I will not
‘ yet carry you to the bower. As you
‘ are got into a Paradise of your own or
‘ my making, here, eat some of the fruits
‘ of this delicious garden; and if they
‘ must not make you immortal, may they
‘ be the beginning of a happiness which
‘ may last as long as your lives.’—

And thus, my dear lady, ended this odd scene. You perceive you are likely to receive a letter or visit from Sir John; and I, perhaps, may have the unspeakable satisfaction of a letter, perhaps of the presence of my dear parent, on this occasion.

When Doctor Trew joined us, Sir John, in a conversation with him and me, begged leave to offer his opinion concerning the action laid against my uncle and Mr. Trailer, which he thought would be better dropped than prosecuted; giving
for

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for his reason, that ladies characters met with very little delicacy in public courts of justice ; and the victory over such wretches, would ill compensate for the liberties which would be taken with my reputation, both in and out of court ; and that no one would chuse to be the public talk at taverns and tea-tables, merely for the sake of a little revenge.—The doctor coming into the same opinion, I ordered the action to be withdrawn. I am

My dearest guardian's

Most devoted, and

Obedient humble servant,

PHŒBE OSMOND.

C H A P. IX.

Lady Foster, To Miss Osmond.

The Willows,

My dear Ward,

July 29, 1757.

I Was equally surpris'd and pleas'd with the contents of your last letter ; and of *one*, which I have received on the subject, from Sir John Emlin. As far as human foresight can reach, his proposal appears

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appears very promising of happiness to you both : I therefore do not hesitate in exercising the authority your good parent has impowered me with, in advising your acceptance of his offer, or in granting him the legal consent he requires. It may be some time before your father's answer can arrive ; and since I am certain the match would be perfectly agreeable to his inclinations, can see no reason for delaying it, but much for its speedy accomplishment ; by which means you would oblige the most deserving of his sex, and disconcert any malevolent scheme of your wicked uncle's. As I propose seeing you in a few days, I defer what I have further to add upon this head till that happy interview, greatly desired by

Your ever faithful, and
affectionate friend,

M. FOSTER.

P. S. I inclose two letters, which are
just arrived here.

To

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To the Honourable Mrs. Foster, at
The Willows.

Portsmouth,
July 27, 1757.

I Am superlatively obliged to my dear aunt, for her present, and for persuading my papa to make the purchase for Mr. Craven, which he has promised to do the first opportunity; but at this time the commissions are all filled up. The camp has been broke up some days; and I have taken leave of Mr. Craven, who is now on board a transport, going no-body knows where: so I propose returning to my papa; and shall be immensely glad to get into company again; for I could not exist a month in the way I have been forced to live; shut out from society, in a paltry apartment, in a village, where there was no more conversation or diversion going forward, than at Oak-hall: and the savage inhabitants stared, and pointed at me, if I attempted stirring out of my hovel, as if I had been
an

an outlandish monster. Mr. Craven was so taken up with attending on brigade guards, town guards, and I know not what, that he might as well have been in North America, for what I saw of him; but he is deplorably altered; and so it was no great matter. I had set my heart upon going to a horse-race, some miles distant, and dancing amongst a few rational animals, when the odious rout came, and prevented me. I verily believe I shall detest the word rout as long as I breathe, for this vexatious disappointment. However, as it is not necessary for Mr. Craven to drag me after him, where he is now going, I think myself vastly lucky in having an opportunity of returning to the pleasures of the town, from which I have been so long debarred: though, with my papa's permission, I should be infinitely happy to pass this season at Tunbridge; and if you will propose that delightful scheme to him, that is, prevail with him to furnish me with money for that occasion, I will do myself the honour to take

your

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your house in my way. In the mean time,
I remain

Your most obsequious,
humble servant,
D. CRAVEN.

To Mrs. Horton.

Portsmouth,
Deer Madem, Guly the twente six.

I Am wastely obledged to you for yure
good whishes, and i hops i shal be
happye won tim or an orthar withe Mr.
Tricker. i was marred to him gust befor
we quidted hour last quartars, but my
lady himportoned me to sta withe her,
bein amonk strangejarrs, so i did not goe
to kamp. i doat my lady wil hafe enuff
to do to plese her spowse, he is so vary dif-
fecul. You nows she is not the most han-
sumist lady in the you-no-verse, and he
was corntinally finden fawlt withe her par-
son, so that i coed nevar drefs her to his
faterfakshun, bekaws here was a cornats
lady in the sam kamp how is natshrilly
gentile and prete, and was angria that i
coed

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coed not maek her look as smarte as Mrs. H——. Mr. Tricker is gone with our ragment on a seekright xpedition, and for that reson they take no woemen with them, my master, *onter new* (i hafe larnt some French of my spowse), is so cole to my lady that she dus not fims muche consarned aboat him, but i am vary low-sparited at the loose of my husbin, but wen thare onnars the curnalls and genrals go, we leetel pepel must not cumplane : so, hoping to see you soon, i remane

Yure losing frend,
tel death,

ABIGAL TRICKER.

On the first of August, Lady Foster arrived at Doctor Trew's, where she passed two days ; and returning suitable thanks to him, and his quality friends, for their kindness to her ward, she took Sir John Emlin, the Doctor, his niece, and Miss Osmond, to her Richmond house ; Mrs. Curtis declining her invitation. Mrs. Mortimer, being informed of her arrival in Surry, and finding herself well enough
to

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to bear the motion of a vehicle, waited upon her there, accompanied by her son ; when she highly applauded her niece's conduct, and said, tho' Miss Osmond had alledged unanswerable reasons against so near an affinity, she should ever retain a maternal tenderness and affection for her. Mr. Mortimer confessed it was with great reluctance that he obeyed her injunctions ; but the sincere regard he had for her happiness, and the indisputable merit of the gentleman she preferred, afforded him a degree of satisfaction in his acquiescence. Sir John, sensible of his disappointment, and the violence he must have done to his inclinations, endeavoured to render himself as agreeable as possible ; carefully avoiding all appearance of a favoured rival, or any particularity towards Miss Osmond. At parting, Mr. Mortimer took each by the hand, called them his dear cousins, and, in scarce articulate sounds, wished them happy ; saying, he was going to make the tour of England, and, in all probability, should not have an opportunity of seeing them again before
he

he set out.—He burst into tears, and flung himself into the coach after his mother, leaving the lovers much affected by his behaviour. It was debated, whether Sir John ought not to return his visit next day, and carried in the negative; as his last words seemed a prohibition; and the family in general were of opinion, that it was proper to defer this civility, till his return from the excursion he mentioned, which might restore his spirits and peace of mind, apparently hurt by an unsuccessful passion. On the sixth of August, Doctor Trew was summoned to officiate at the nuptials of Colonel L—— and Lady Barbara, who chose the ceremony should be performed by him, at his parish-church, in presence only of the Earl and Countess: and next day the following billet came to Sir John Emlin.

Lord ——'s Library,

Dear Sir John,

Aug. 7, 1757.

YOU are requested to march the whole company, now quartered at Lady Foster's, hither, on the 8th instant, by
two

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two at noon, to salute the bride, and congratulate the happiest of mankind: need I add,

AUGUSTUS L—.

CHAP. X.

IN compliance with the Colonel's invitation, Lady Foster and her family went to the Earl's; and, about six in the evening, whilst they were engaged in the most agreeable conversation, Sir John Emlin was informed, that a gentleman, who had been seeking him at Richmond, being directed hither, was waiting in the hall to speak with him. Upon which he left the room, and the stranger delivered him a letter, which he said required an immediate answer. On perusing it, "a verbal one," said he, "will do. I beg, Sir, you would give my compliments to Mr. Osmond, and I will wait upon him, at his own house, before the time mentioned in the morning." The Colonel, passing thro' the room, heard this message; and, astonished at it, asked Sir John

John, the occasion of it. "You will see
 "in this," answered he; giving him the
 letter he had received, which contained
 a challenge from Mr. Osmond, to meet
 him in Hyde-Park, by six next morning,
 indited in the usual style of such invita-
 tions, and leaving him the choice of his
 weapons. "And do you intend," said
 the Colonel, after reading it, "to ho-
 nour such a scoundrel with a compli-
 "ance with his request?"—"I propose,"
 answered Sir John, "seeing him, and ex-
 postulating with him."—"Nay, Sir
 "John, if you propose meeting an enemy,
 "made desperate by vice and disappoint-
 "ment, I must attend you, to see there is
 "no foul play."—"I would by no means,
 "Colonel, interrupt your felicity, by en-
 gaging you in an affair of this nature;
 "and beg you would think no more about
 "it, till you hear from me: I make no
 "doubt but matters will be adjusted with-
 "out blood-shed, and that I shall return
 "hither by dinner to-morrow."—"Indeed,
 "Sir John, it will be a total suspension of
 "happiness to me, to suspect you are in
 VOL. II. L "danger;

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“danger; and therefore, if you would
 “oblige me, suffer me to be of your party.”
 —“No seconds are mentioned, Colonel;
 “nor, as I intend proceeding, shall I
 “need any; and I must insist upon your
 “leaving me to act for myself in this case.
 “In the mean time, let us return to the
 “company, lest our absence should oc-
 “casion suspicion; for I would not, for
 “this world’s wealth, give Miss Osmond
 “the least cause to suspect what has
 “passed.” On their joining the rest of
 the company, the Colonel endeavoured to
 resume his gaiety; but reflections on
 what might happen to his friend, checked
 the natural fallies of his vivacity. In the
 morning, when the family met at break-
 fast, they were informed, Sir John was
 rode out; and left word, if he was not re-
 turned by three o’clock, he should dine
 in town. After breakfast, the gentlemen
 and ladies, by joint consent, adjourned to
 the library, where each took a book for
 their separate amusement; but the Colonel’s
 thoughts, engaged on his friend’s expedi-
 tion, would not be dissipated; and he
 soon

soon threw aside his, and sauntered alone into the gardens. The others were so entertained with the authors they had selected, that they continued perusing them till near two o'clock; when a servant of Sir John Emlin's entered the room, pale and breathless; who addressed the Earl, with, "I hope your lordship will pardon my intrusion; but I came for your lordship's advice, how to proceed against a gentleman, who, I believe, has killed my master." The consternation this speech occasioned was such, that the whole company dropp'd their books; the blood forsok the ladies cheeks, and the Earl was scarce able to demand the meaning of it: but at last, having asked the fellow what grounds he had for such a conjecture; he replied, "My lord, as I was dusting the clothes his honour wore yesterday, a paper fell out of his coat-pocket, which I found was a challenge from Mr. Osmond, to meet him in Hyde-park this morning; and thinking from his going out so early, unattended, that he designed accepting it, I immediately rode

‘ to the place appointed for their meeting;
 ‘ where perceiving all quiet, and being
 ‘ assured there had been no rencounter
 ‘ there, I proceeded to Dover-street, from
 ‘ whence the challenge was dated, to learn
 ‘ what I could of the challenger; and
 ‘ was told in the neighbourhood, that a
 ‘ tragical affair had happened at Lady
 ‘ Osmond’s house, and two gentlemen
 ‘ were supposed to be mortally wounded,
 ‘ one of which came, early in the morn-
 ‘ ing, to speak with Mr. Osmond. At
 ‘ this account I went to my master’s house;
 ‘ and none of the servants giving me any
 ‘ tidings of his honour, I tramped about
 ‘ to every Coffee-house, and publick place
 ‘ where he used to resort, without being
 ‘ able to gain any intelligence of him; so
 ‘ I came back to acquaint your lordship
 ‘ with my suspicions.’ Before the servant
 had got to the end of his tale, Miss Of-
 mond was conveyed into her chamber, in
 a lifeless condition, and the Colonel was
 returned into the library; who having
 some reason to credit the fellow’s surmise,
 set out immediately for town, promising
 to

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to send the family the earliest intelligence of his friend. None arriving that night, the Earl's household, and Doctor Trew's, passed it in anxiety and suspense.

CHAP. XI.

DOCTOR Trew, no less anxious for the Baronet's fate than any one at the Earl's, went thither by day-break, and was told, no account from the Colonel was come; and that Lady Foster and Lady Barbara, tho' both strongly affected with the worst of apprehensions for Sir John, had set up the whole night, endeavouring to console Miss Osmond. About an hour after his arrival, this letter came to Lady Barbara.

Bond-street, August 10.
5 in the Morning.

I Have the pleasure to inform my dear Lady Bab, and our friends, that Sir John Emlin will dine with them to-day, accompanied by your most faithful

A. L—.

The contents of this note greatly relieved his anxious friends, who, on the gentlemens appearance, expressed a desire to know what had detained Sir John, and given rise to his servant's alarm. He informed them, that he was met upon the road by four horse-men, and an empty post-chaise: that one of the men, who had a crape over his face, insisted on his dismounting, which he refused; and by their attack supposing their intention was to rob him, drew a pistol from his holsters; which another, who was placed behind him, knocked out of his hand, with the handle of his whip; and after making all the resistance he was able, he was overpowered, and forced into the chaise, after blindfolding him, and fastening his hands. One of the men placed himself next him, and drew up the canvas. Sir John asked his companion the meaning of this treatment, and whither they were carrying him? He replied, "You will meet
 "with no worse than this; but it is neces-
 "sary you should be our prisoner, at least
 "some hours. We are neither robbers nor
 "assassins,

“ assassins, and only obey the commands
 “ of a lady, to whom you are more
 “ obliged than you apprehend, as you
 “ may one time or other have the grati-
 “ tude to acknowledge. In the mean time
 “ I am not at liberty to give you any fur-
 “ ther information.” Nor could he get a
 syllable more from him till he alighted,
 and was led into a house, and up a stair-
 case, into a room, with the shutters closed,
 and a fire and candles burning; when the
 man with the crape unbound his eyes and
 hands, and placed a table with chocolate
 before him, desiring him to refresh him-
 self, whilst he attended his lady for fur-
 ther orders; and, locking the door, made
 his exit. ‘ Now would I give a joint of
 ‘ my little finger,’ said Lady Bab, ‘ to
 ‘ know who this lady was, and how the
 ‘ romantic adventure concluded. For my
 ‘ part, if I were Miss Osmond, I should
 ‘ have interrupted you with the question,
 ‘ from the first mention of her.’——“ If
 “ she had, Madam, I could not have an-
 “ swered it, for I neither saw her, nor heard
 “ her name; and tho’, from the elegance

“ of the furniture, I suppose the family
 “ to be of condition, I cannot guess
 “ whose it is, or in what part of the town;
 “ nor can I form the least conjecture of
 “ the occasion of my seizure.” ‘ It ap-
 ‘ pears a very strange affair indeed,’ said
 Miss Osmond. ‘ But pray, Sir, what pre-
 ‘ vented your seeing this lady? I am sur-
 ‘ prised you had not the *Curiosity* to desire
 ‘ that favour.’—“ I beg, fair lady,” said
 the Colonel, “ you would not betray *too*
 “ much; Sir John has confessed more
 “ already than he ought. Be satisfied that
 “ he has escaped your uncle’s scheme, and
 “ fled from the lady’s, with a heart in-
 “ tirely devoted to you.”—‘ That Sir
 ‘ John is returned safe, Sir,’ answered she,
 ‘ must afford us all pleasure, who were
 ‘ under the dreadfulest apprehensions; and
 ‘ I hope his next *secret* expedition will not
 ‘ have so terrible an effect on our minds.’—
 “ Now, Colonel,” said the Baronet, “ your
 “ inadvertent speech has drawn on me a
 “ severer punishment than I deserve.”—
 ‘ Indeed, Madam, I should have made no
 ‘ secret of my excursion, had not the fond
 ‘ thought

' thought of exciting some degree of un-
 ' easiness in you, deterred me from com-
 ' municating my design, which was to
 ' have an interview with Mr. Osmond;
 ' and how I was prevented from execute-
 ' ing it, I have told you.'—"Yes, you
 " have told us in part," cried Lady Bab:
 " but, in defiance of my soldier, I insist
 " upon more particulars. Did you sto-
 " mach your chocolate? and how were
 " you accompanied? Did the fair incog-
 " nita send her Abigail to relate her history
 " to you, in your captivity? and to whose
 " prowess are you indebted for your li-
 " berty?"—I saw no person, Madam,
 ' from my entrance into the house till my
 ' exit, but my introducer, who conti-
 ' nued to conceal his face, and intentions.
 ' After I had remained in this apartment
 ' about two hours, ruminating on the od-
 ' dity of the adventure, the report of a
 ' pistol alarmed me; and I could hear a
 ' great bustle in the house: on which I en-
 ' deavoured in vain to open the shutters,
 ' which were nailed down; nor could I
 ' force the lock of my door. I passed the

' most tedious disagreeable day of my life
 ' in this situation; and, to confess a truth,
 ' did not dare to taste the repast set before
 ' me; apprehensive of poison, though I
 ' could not conceive from what quarter.
 ' About twelve at night, my guide with
 ' his crape-face, attended by two other
 ' fellows, came into my room, and told
 ' me, I must submit to be blinded and
 ' bound, in the manner I had been in the
 ' morning, if I would obtain my liberty,
 ' which he was now impowered to grant
 ' me, on those conditions. I submitted
 ' to them, on their assurance I should be
 ' conveyed safe into the Park, from whence
 ' it was but a step to my own house; and
 ' was accordingly placed in a chair, and,
 ' in about half an hour, set down at
 ' Buckingham-gate. On my entrance in-
 ' to my own house, the servants told
 ' me, Colonel L—— had been there three
 ' times that day, to inquire for me, and
 ' seemed very much disappointed and un-
 ' easy at not finding me; leaving orders,
 ' the moment I came, he might be sent
 ' to, at his house in Bond-street. This ac-

count

“count added to my perplexity, as I had
 “reason to fear from it, that he had re-
 “vealed my intentions to this family, and
 “consequently alarmed you with those ap-
 “prehensions I had endeavoured to avoid;
 “and I therefore sent immediately for him.”

—“You have talked enough, Sir John,”
 said the Colonel, “for one that has not
 “eat, drank, or slept, these six-and-twenty
 “hours. Now comes my tale: As soon
 “as I got to town, I went to Sir John’s,
 “where his house-keeper informed me,
 “she expected him every hour, as his
 “horse was brought home by a messenger,
 “who said, he was in town. This cir-
 “cumstance of his horse’s arrival, with-
 “out being followed by him, after so
 “many hours, gave me great inquietude,
 “and I posted away to Dover-street; and
 “observing a surgeon of my acquaint-
 “ance coming out of Lady Osmond’s,
 “I joined him, and asked if any accident
 “had happened there? He answered, a
 “very dreadful one; that he had extract-
 “ed a brace of balls from one patient,
 “and dressed a dangerous wound another

“ had received from a sword, and thought
 “ neither of them could recover. Shocked
 “ at this account, I was afraid to ask, if
 “ Sir John was not one of his patients;
 “ yet I could not help saying, Is Mr. Of-
 “ mond, or his antagonist, in most dan-
 “ ger?”——“ I perceive,” answered he,
 “ that you suppose a duel to be the case;
 “ but I am informed it was to prevent
 “ one, which Mr. Armstrong had a suspi-
 “ cion was intended by Mr. Osmond, and
 “ went early into his chamber to dissuade
 “ him from his purpose; when finding all
 “ arguments in vain, he was about to lock
 “ him into his apartment; on which the
 “ enraged challenger took up a pistol, and
 “ fired at him: Mr. Trailer, it seems, en-
 “ tering the room at that instant, Mr. Of-
 “ mond accused him of betraying the se-
 “ cret of his intentions; and, without giv-
 “ ing him leave to make his defence,
 “ plunged his sword into his bosom.”
 Here the Colonel was interrupted by
 the approach of a servant, who delivered a
 card to Doctor Trew, containing Lady
 Osmond’s compliments, and an earnest
 request

request that he would hasten to her house, having a secret of the utmost moment to impart to him. He instantly obeyed the summons; and when he entered her house, was conducted into a chamber, where he found her sitting by Mr. Armstrong's bed-side, who, tho' dying, had his senses unimpaired. At the sight of the Doctor, she burst into a passion of tears, and desired him to recollect, if he was not on a visit to a clergyman, at Tiverton, in August 1714. Being answered, he was, she continued,—“ You were then, Sir, “ but just in orders.”—“ I was ordained, “ Madam, on the Trinity Sunday pre- “ ceding.”—“ O good Sir, I must, to “ my eternal shame, reveal the occasion “ of my requiring you to make this retro- “ spection, as the only amends in my “ power for my past transgressions, which “ I hope may in some measure avert the “ punishment hereafter due to my crimes. “ Be pleased, Sir, to attend to my con- “ fession. A few months before that pe- “ riod, Mr. Armstrong came to be clerk “ to my father, whose name was Jones, “ and

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“ and who was then steward to Sir Henry
 “ Osmond. Very soon, a reciprocal af-
 “ fection commenced between us; which
 “ my father disapproved of, and did all
 “ in his power to prevent proceeding to
 “ an union. But both being at age, and
 “ possessed with a strong passion for each
 “ other, we determined to marry private-
 “ ly, and for that purpose procured a
 “ licence of the rector of Tiverton. You
 “ were present at the granting it, and wit-
 “ nessed it; then said, as you had never
 “ yet had an opportunity of officiating in
 “ that part of your office, you should be
 “ obliged to Mr. R— if he would per-
 “ mit you to perform it for him. He
 “ consented; but when we came to the
 “ altar, Mr. Armstrong found he had
 “ forgot the ring, and was in great con-
 “ fusion at the omission; when you took
 “ one from your finger, which you wore
 “ in commemoration of the late Queen
 “ Anne, and offered it to me for the oc-
 “ casion.—After the ceremony, I would
 “ have returned it; but you refused to
 “ accept it again, saying, women generally

“ vene-

THE BROTHERS. 231

“venerated that pledge, and you could
“easily procure another.”—“I remember
“the incident, Madam.”—“I can pro-
“duce the ring now, Sir; but chuse to
“continue my confession. On our return
“to my father’s, we behaved with greater
“reserve than usual to each other; and
“no one in the family had the least sus-
“picion of our marriage. The Novem-
“ber following, a court was held at my
“father’s, where Sir Henry Osmond met
“his copyhold tenants, and where he
“unluckily cast a favourable eye upon
“me, and immediately made proposals
“of marriage to my father, who, rejoicing
“at the overture, laid his commands on
“me to accept him. I, shocked at the
“proposal, informed my husband of it,
“and begged him to reveal our marriage
“to my parent. He answered, poverty,
“and distress of every kind, must be the
“consequence of such a confession, as
“my father had declared he would turn
“us both adrift, if we entered into such
“an engagement; and he will now, on
“his death-bed, own he urged me to
“marry

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“ marry Sir Henry, knowing, as well as
 “ myself, I was at that time in a con-
 “ dition to bring a spurious child to par-
 “ take his fortune.” ‘ I did, I did, in-
 ‘ deed !’ cried the dying man ; ‘ and the
 ‘ event has shown heaven’s offence at my
 ‘ transgression. For, from the birth of this
 ‘ parricide, he has been a perpetual scourge
 ‘ to us ; and we have neither of us en-
 ‘ joyed an hour’s real peace of mind ;
 ‘ ever tormented with dread of a detec-
 ‘ tion—and my sleeping and waking
 ‘ thoughts continually presenting my
 ‘ wronged master’s image to my view.
 ‘ O Doctor ! if the sincerest contrition can
 ‘ procure the least hope of pardon from
 ‘ offended heaven, do you, its embassador,
 ‘ speak comfort to my disturbed departing
 ‘ spirit.’ Here tears and agonizing groans
 followed from both the criminals ; which
 so affected the Doctor’s humane heart,
 that he wept with them ; and for some
 moments was unable to speak ; when he
 did, presuming their penitence sincere,
 it was in a consolatory strain. With this
 confession in writing, the Doctor return-
 ed

ed to the Earl's, and communicated it to all there. Miss Osmond shed tears on perusing it; yet said, she was thankful to Providence for the discovery, that that monster of iniquity, whom she had with sorrow supposed to be of her family, was not allied to the name he had worn.

C H A P. XII.

DR. Trew told Sir John Emlin, he had, by his visit to Lady Osmond, made a discovery of the reason of his being seized and blindfolded, and treated so unaccountably on the road and in the house; and produced this letter, which she had given him:

To Lady Osmond,

St. Martin's-Lane,

Madam,

August 8, 1757.

MAY it please your Ladship, I having received certain information from Mr. Trailer, that your son Mr. Osmond has challenged Sir John Emlin, to fight him in High-Park to-morrow mornen at six

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six of the clock; and that Sir John has promised to meet him; I thought it my duty to acquaint your Ladeship with their intentions, that you may take some means to keep them asunder; and I hope your Ladeship will excuse this from

Your humble servant, to command,

MARGARET COUSINS.

“She told me,” said the Doctor, “on
“the receipt of this, she consulted with
“Mr. Armstrong what measures to pursue; and he advised the scheme of securing Sir John Emlin in her own
“house, for that day; which was executed by people hired and instructed
“by him for that purpose: that her sole
“design was to prevent bloodshed, and
“not to do any injury to Sir John, whom,
“in the confusion her household was
“thrown into, she forgot to release till
“midnight.” Tiverton register was searched, and the certificate from it procured of the marriage of James Armstrong with Joyce Jones, August 29, 1714. Letters were immediately dispatched to acquaint Sir Henry Osmond with the affair;

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fair; and Mr. Osmond was confined, till the fate of Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Trailer should be determined. Sir John Emlin, and Miss Osmond's other friends, were very pressing with her to fix the day for the celebration of their nuptials; but she said her mind was so disturbed by the tragical accidents which she had innocently occasioned, that she could not at present think of it; and wished to stay for her father's sanction: in which determination they were obliged to acquiesce.

Miss Osmond, To Lady Barbary L——.

Richmond,

My Dear Lady Bab, Aug. 30, 1757.

AS you so kindly interest yourself in every event relative to me, I here send you a letter I have just received, which would have given me great pleasure, had not the dreadful intelligence from Dover Street, that arrived a few minutes after, rendered me insensible to any thing like joy. I tremble whilst I com-

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communicate it; yet it is necessary you should know. Mr. Armstrong died at nine last night; and his son, being informed of his death, and the confession made by his mother and him, to Doctor Trew, caught up a razor that lay in his way, and cut his throat in so desperate a manner, that he expired in less than an hour. Triller, it is thought, may linger with his wound: and the wretched mother is enduring such tortures of mind, as I heartily pray may expiate her crime. Amidst this scene of woe, I cannot yet think of complying with my parent's injunction of giving my hand speedily to Sir John, who has set out for Huntingdonshire, before I received the melancholy news; but I have written to him, and begged the celebration may be deferred till a distant day. My spirits are extremely depressed; and the arrival of Mrs. Craven, who is now visiting my dear guardian, and who, with her usual unfeeling impertinence, has congratulated me on the large fortune that must devolve to me by Mr. Osmond's decease,

with-

without making any reflections on the horrible event that puts my father into possession of it, affects them still more, and indeed made me unfit for an employ of this nature. Excuse me, therefore, if I add no more than, that I am,

Yours, affectionately,

PHŒBE OSMOND.

Sir Henry Osmond, To Miss Osmond.

Gibraltar,

My dearest child, August 10, 1757.

EVERY packet of yours has afforded both pleasure and concern. How often, whilst perusing them, I have bewailed that false pride, that induced me to secrete my name and birth, and brought you into such grievous trials, Heaven can witness! whose forgiveness I have incessantly implored, and, I hope, obtained; since I am blest with the assurance that your virtue has raised you above them all, and attracted the regard of the worthiest of mankind; to whose protection I would willingly

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willingly resign you, could I make you an inheritor of your ancestor's possessions ; and am only sorry that I cannot, in the eye of the world, render you an adequate match for him. I flatter myself, that in you I can present him with every material for happiness, except a dower : and if your conduct, in the conjugal state, is conformable to what it has been in your maiden one, I believe he must ever retain the sentiments he has expressed in his letter to me, which are those of a lover, whose passion is raised on the solid basis of religion and reason. The generous offer he makes of any settlement within the compass of his fortune, I decline accepting, and would advise you to do so too : yet, lest his unbounded generosity, if left to itself, should prompt him to do more than you ought to expect on the occasion, I desire you would be wholly guided by Lady Foster's judgment, as to that affair. Believe me, my dear girl, the satisfaction I receive from the prospect of this alliance, does not arise from the wealth and honour it will derive to
you ;

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you; but from the pleasing reflection, that, by passing your days with a man of his morality and good sense, even the inevitable stroke will not so far separate such kindred souls, but that a happy meeting in the mansions of bliss may be expected. No one act of my life ever gave me more felicity, than I experience in granting my hearty consent to your union; which I beg may not be deferred upon my account: for tho' it would give me inexpressible joy to present you to Sir John at the altar; the duty of my profession, which no self-interested motive shall ever tempt me to swerve from, impedes my immediate return to England. A recruiting errand may possibly bring me thither in the spring, when I hope to be received by both children, as

Their affectionate parent,
HENRY OSMOND.

P. S. I write to your good guardian, Sir John Emlin, and my sister, by this mail.

Lady

Lady Barbara L——, To Miss Osmond.

August 31.

BLESS me, my dear! what a terrible account does your last letter give! —But do not be so dispirited at a catastrophe guided by the hand of Providence. I am sorry for the wretch's end; and, tho' little troubled with spleen or vapours, find an inclination to be grave upon it. It is, methinks, unlucky, that our men are out of the way at present; mine is gone to visit his corps, and yours engaged in preparatives for an event, that I wish, with all your friends, was accomplished. The manner of your enemy's death is blazed about; tho' the coroner's inquest made a *lunatic* report, as I hear from Sir Charles Wilding, who visited me this morning, and was very inquisitive as to the certainty of your engagement with Sir John Emlin; saying, the world was much divided in their conjectures about it; and many were of opinion, that the great and unexpected accession of fortune, on your side,

side, might give your thoughts a different turn. I downright huffed him for the supposition; but such mere bodies have no idea of what souls are: yet I should be glad, to still such empty reports, that the affair was over; and that you will give me an opportunity of saluting Lady Emlin by this day se'ennight, is heartily hoped, by

Your affectionate

BARBARA L——,

C H A P. XIII.

Miss Osmond, To Lady Barbara L——.

Richmond,

Sept. 8. 1757.

YOUR Ladyship's advice I take in the friendly meaning intended by it; but Sir John will not give me an opportunity of following it, without making concessions beneath the dignity of my sex. You know enough of my heart, to be certain, without any fresh assurance from me, that the addition to my fortune would rather accelerate, than retard the gift of

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my

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my hand to so disinterested a lover as he has hitherto appeared: but I have reason to think, as you will judge from the inclosed, that the present is of less consequence in his opinion than I had flattered myself. Lady Foster, no less astonished than I at this epistle, begged my permission to write to him, but I absolutely forbade her: for if he is of so capricious a disposition, as to take my letter in the sense he seems, and can be so insensible of the present disorder of my mind, he cannot be a suitable husband for

Your sincere,

PHOEBE OSMOND.

The inclosed contained these lines.

To Miss Osmond.

Emlin Grove, Sept. 6, 1757.

I Should apologize to Miss Osmond, for deferring my answer to hers of the 30th of last month, was I not well assured, from the contents of that and common report, my replying, or not replying, must

must be a matter of indifference to her. I sincerely congratulate you, Madam, on the accession of a fortune, which I acknowledge, with your person and accomplishments, it would be the utmost presumption in me to aspire after; and needed not so peremptory an order for postponing an event, that I once thought would be productive of ultimate happiness to us both. But since I perceive you are now of a contrary opinion, and I have no idea of entering into that state without a reciprocal affection, the slightest intimation of the change in your sentiments would have been sufficient to have deterred me from troubling you with a repetition of requests on so ungrateful a subject. As I have ever shewn a ready acquiescence in every command of yours, this last shall be obeyed by,

Madam,

Your most obedient,

JOHN EMLIN.

Lady Barbara L——, To Miss Osmond.

Bond-street, Sept. 10.

ON perusing Sir John's unaccountable epistle to my dear friend, I could not help using Otway's words.—

Is there not one of all your tribe that's honest?

And then answering myself, Yes, I think I have found one man so; but how can I be certain of that? What alterations may happen in his disposition I cannot say: How can I? when I would have pawned my soul, that your ungrateful lover was the sincerest and most disinterested of mortals. I don't know I ever was so thoroughly offended with a man in my life, except the deceased destroyer of your quiet: but he was an open enemy,

And wore no mask of friendship, to betray.

Mr. L—returned whilst I was reading your letter; and perceiving I was affected with the contents, begged me to communicate them to him. I obeyed; for you know I have *sworn* to do so; so I hope you will
pardon

pardon me. "What infatuation," said I, "has possessed Sir John?" — "I can't imagine," replied he. "Some strange misunderstanding must have induced him to write so unlike himself. I cannot believe his heart ever dictated these sentiments." — "No matter what dictated, since he wrote: Is it not his hand?" — "I own it is — and yet, methinks, I wish Lady Foster had written to him." — "If she had the Italian secret of poisoning by letter, I could almost join in that wish." — "Fie! my dear, what a thought is that! I am very certain some egregious mistake must have happened; and I am determined to take a trip into Huntingdonshire, and, if possible, trace it out." Your delicacy, my dear Miss Osmond, need not suggest any apprehensions, that he will appear, in this visit, the least acquainted with what has happened. I suppose you know the funeral is over; and that the mother, consoled by good Doctor Trew's conversation and advice, proposes passing the remainder of her days in obscurity and penitence. Trailer,

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by the loss of his patron, who had supported him for some years, is quite destitute; but Doctor Trew has by his interest got him into an hospital, where he may live, though he is deemed incurable. I hope the next intelligence you receive will be more agreeable, from

YOUR BARBARA L——.

Colonel L——, To Lady Barbara L——.

Emlin Grove, Sept. 13.

NO more poisoned letters for Sir John, who has received too much venom already. I arrived here, my dear, at seven last night; and marched, through a double row of boxes of furniture in the hall, to Sir John, who embraced me with a forced smile over a face lengthened half a yard since our last interview; and a speech, informing me, that my presence was never more grateful to him, as he wanted to unburthen his mind. “I wish “you would unburthen these boxes,” returned

turned I; "it is a disappointment to me,
 "not to find all things in order, for the
 "reception of my fair friend. However,
 "I am come opportunely to assist in placing
 "the bronzes, and other decorations, and
 "therefore beg you would give immediate
 "orders for unpacking."—"No, Colonel;
 'I will give myself no further trouble in
 'preparations for a chimerical event; be-
 'ing fully convinced I have but too long
 'indulged the delusive expectation of an
 'ideal happiness, as you will see in this;'

delivering a letter to me, which contained
 these lines.

Richmond, August 30.

I Never was insensible of the honour
 done me by Sir John Emlin's ad-
 dresses; and may perhaps accept his hand
 at a convenient time: but, as affairs are
 now circumstanced, think it proper to de-
 cline it, till I have a positive assurance
 from my father, that his sentiments remain
 unaltered by the late change in his for-
 tune. In the mean time, that you would

cease to importune me on the subject, is
the request of,

Your humble servant,

PHOEBE OSMOND.

Now, my dear Lady Bab, what think
you? Does not this civil epistle require
such an answer as you shewed me? and
yet, from his own account, he wrote a
very different one.—I asked him what
reply he sent? and he answered, “ When
“ I first attempted one, my chagrin and
“ disappointment dictated a cool acquies-
“ cence in her request; but on reperusing
“ it, my heart rebelling against my reason,
“ I committed the lines to the flames, and
“ condescended to expostulate with her,
“ in the tenderest terms, begging an im-
“ mediate reply; and to be informed of
“ the nature of that inadvertent offence,
“ which had displeased her. Receiving
“ no answer, I wrote to Lady Foster,
“ from whom I vainly hoped the civility
“ of a reply. In both letters I solicited
“ an audience with either of the ladies;
“ and

“ and about two hours since, one of Lady Foster’s servants left a card here, and
 “ rode off, saying, it required no answer.”
 The words were these :

It is quite inconvenient for Lady Foster and Miss Osmond to admit Sir John Emlin’s visit, till advices arrive from Gibraltar; which it is probable may not be till the middle of November.

Richmond, Sept. 11.

“ You see, Colonel, I am doomed to
 “ be unhappy.”—“ Indeed, Sir John, I
 “ see nothing like it: if Miss Osmond is
 “ really capable of so disingenuous a
 “ change, merely from an accession of fortune, that gives her a superiority to you
 “ in that respect, I should heartily congratulate your escape from mercenary bondage, rather than condole a loss which
 “ will be hers in the end.—What said Sir
 “ Henry, in his letter to you? for I hear
 “ he has written.”—“ Every thing that I
 “ could wish, or expect, from the kindest
 “ friend, and most indulgent parent;

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“ which renders my disappointment
 “ greater. In the multitude of con-
 “ jectures that have arisen in my disordered
 “ imagination on this occasion, it has ap-
 “ peared to me not improbable, but this
 “ proceeding may be intended as a trial,
 “ whether I would not more warmly pur-
 “ sue Miss Osmond’s fortune, than I did
 “ her personal worth: yet I have con-
 “ demned myself for supposing her in-
 “ clined to use such an artifice; and
 “ should less esteem her, were she actu-
 “ ated by such a motive, as I must, in
 “ that case, be fallen low indeed in her
 “ opinion. However, lest this disagree-
 “ able conjecture should be fact, I am
 “ determined to make no farther conces-
 “ sions; and solemnly protest I should
 “ think myself much more fortunate in a
 “ partner for life, such as Miss Osmond
 “ appeared at our last happy interview,
 “ with genuine beauties of mind and
 “ person, unadulterated by affectation,
 “ and offering me herself, that is, offer-
 “ ing me every thing I wanted to consti-
 “ tute my felicity, than I could ever be
 “ by

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“by the possession of a fordid mind, tho’
 “accompanied by the form of an *Helen*,
 “and the wealth of a *Cræsus*.”—“These
 ‘sentiments, Sir John, are worthy of
 ‘yourself, and worthy of her, I firmly
 ‘believe; for I cannot suppose either this
 ‘letter or card to be of her writing.’—
 “Oh! Colonel, what a flattering thought
 “is that, could we have any grounds for
 “a contrary supposition! But, alas! we
 “are both too well acquainted with her
 “hand, at least I think I am, to admit
 “the dawning of a doubt as to that.”—
 “I own, Sir John, appearances are strong-
 ‘ly against her; yet they have been so
 ‘before, when she was blameless: if she
 ‘is not so in the present instance, I should
 ‘rejoice at so timely a discovery of her
 ‘disposition; but I have too good an opi-
 ‘nion of her, to credit even my own
 ‘senses, when representing her guilty of
 ‘ingratitude and dissingenuity; and must
 ‘suspect some malevolent scheme to inter-
 ‘rupt your mutual happiness; tho’ I can-
 ‘not guess the author. Will you trust me
 ‘with that card?’—“With all my heart,

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‘ Colonel; and should you by that be
 “ able to unravel this perplexed affair, I
 “ should regard you as my guardian an-
 “ gel.”

I hope I shall be able to oblige him; and believe, if I had not promised you not to reveal to him the contents of Miss Osmond’s last letter to you, I could have afforded him a glimpse of hope; but as he has laid me under no such injunctions with regard to her, you may mention this card; which I shall be ready to produce, when I have the pleasure to see her. I must return to my regiment for some days, and will appoint you a meeting at Lady Foster’s, as soon as I can. Be assured my detention from you is occasioned by motives which require no apology to your sensible mind, from his heart, which is firmly

Yours,

AUGUSTUS L——;

P. S. Are you quite certain, that no malicious whisperer has had access to Miss Osmond’s ear, in Sir John’s absence?

Lady

Lady Barbara L——, To Miss Osmond,

Bond-street,

Sept. 14. 1757.

HA R R Y has just brought me a letter from my soldier, who has had an interview with your fighting swain; and, I find, acquits him of any intentional faults in his behaviour to our dear Miss Osmond. I perceive, tho' he dares not say so point-blank to such an Amazonian spirit as mine, when provoked in defence of my sex, that he suspects the misunderstanding between you (for a misunderstanding is certainly the case) is occasioned by the interposition of some evil genius, who has had access to your ear. If so, I condemn you without trial; tho' you could make our grand-mother's ancient plea, of your Adam's *leaving you*, for hearkening to the serpent: and yet I think none of the two-legged reptiles of this age could have sufficient address to tempt you to misery, which must be the consequence of your separation. Did you, or did

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did you not, send the inclosed words on a card, to Sir John Emlin, last Monday? I cannot think you did; tho' the men say it is your *band*. I wonder what sort of *foot* the writer has; for my part, I think it must be a cloven one; for you never could be the author of that, or the letter he received in the same hand, and under your name; a copy of which I likewise inclose. I am quite angry at the tittle-tattle your behaviour, between you, has caused. Sir Charles Wilding told me this morning, it was *blown* all over the town, that the match was broke off; and was so impertinently inquisitive after my opinion of the matter, that I could not help asking the careless fellow, how he, who never gave himself the trouble to enquire into his own affairs, came to be so interested in other people's. He answered, he was deeper interested in yours than I imagined; for if you were not married by the birth-day, he should lose five hundred guineas, which he had betted that you were, against a thousand, with Jack Leach, that you were not.—If the
felicity

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Felicity of two capricious creatures, for whom I have a regard, were not at stake, I could wish him a loser; but as Leach has the worst character of the two insignificants, and must suffer twice as much by his folly, I hope you will inflict the due punishment on him; and recall the sentence of banishment passed upon Sir John, or you will heinously offend, not more his than

Your friend,

BARBARA L—.

C H A P. XIV.

Miss Osmond, To Sir Henry Osmond, at
Gibraltar.

Richmond,

Dear Sir,

Sept. 15, 1757.

THE address of this letter will occasion a surprise, which will however last no longer, than till you have cast your eye on the inclosed account of the fatal end of the usurper of your name and fortunes. How many are the perplexities of human affairs, which lie buried in the
dark

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dark womb of time; and wait for their delivery at the great eclaircissement of all things! What extasy of delight must overspread the pure and intelligent mind in the clear view of those ways of heaven! Those ways of heaven, which now

—————" Are dark and intricate,
 " Puzzled with mazes, and perplex'd with error;
 " The understanding traces them in vain,
 " Lost and bewilder'd in the fruitless search,
 " Nor sees with how much art the windings run,
 " Nor where the regular confusion ends."

I wish, from my inmost soul, that the wretched author of your distresses had lived to experience your generosity in forgiving and providing, and my charity in praying for such change of sentiments, and sensibility of heart, as might have opened the door of mercy from above. But, Oh! I sink at the thought of the anguish and madness of that furious spirit which rushed into eternity with the complicated character of murderer of his own father, the insolent intruder into the possessions of mine, and the intentional ravisher of his daughter, the assassin of her
 fame,

fame, her honour, her conscience, the only goods his injustice had left her; ungenerous, inhuman, incestuous, cruel, self-murdered. If any thing is capable of abating or shifting my anguish on this head, it is the contrast I cannot help making of the contented, unresentful, un-reproaching Henry Prado, (almost fatal name!) consoling, instructing, and forming to virtue, his dear Phœbe; poor without murmur, great in misfortune, not wanting to himself, when abandoned by the world, superior to distress, above dependence, resolved not meanly to ask supplies, but to deserve them, in the paths of honour, and the service of his country. The reverse of fortune, seemingly so happy for you, and not less so to me, as it sets me above the pain of an obligation in that point to the man I loved, has yet occasioned, or been followed by, an embarrassment in the affair I had most at heart, because it was the sentiment of yours, and inclination was warranted by duty. Sir John Emlin, the generous protector, the disinterested, and therefore
the

the unsuspected, lover of your Phoebe in her lowest ebb of fortune, has found matter of jealous uneasiness from the change of it; and has either imagined, or been wrought upon to think so meanly of her, whom he once embraced for herself alone, as to suppose all her good qualities fled with her honest poverty, and to treat her with coldness, neglect, and almost rudeness. Odd letters have passed; some have not passed, others have been supposed, and cards forged by some hand or other. The busy, the malicious, the designing world, have given me thoughts and views foreign to my nature, and strangers to my heart. Colonel L——, and his new-married lady, have on this, as on all other occasions, interested themselves warmly in my affair; and the former will not admit, nor will suffer me to admit, a suspicion of the man, the first and best in your judgment, as well as my own. Some guilt, some evil agents, have been suspected, and may be discovered by the kind diligence of such friends to both parties. In the mean,
time,

time, your daughter, and her dear guardian, are in the utmost perplexity, in admitting or rejecting appearances; unwilling to believe ill, unable at present to think well, of the fairest and most amiable character in the world. Cruel suspense, tormenting interruption of all that flow of soft affections, which fill the soul with complacency and joy! Never was my dear father more wanted, to clear the doubts, and direct the steps, of his bewildered daughter. Surely it is not a vain hope, that this occasion may change the measures, and hasten the arrival of the only man, who can prevent, or teach me to bear, the disappointment apprehended. You banished yourself from your country, when you could not with honour reside in it; you have shewn yourself superior to indigence; it is now time to shew yourself equally master of affluence, and not less unequal to the duties of high life, than to those of distress and disappointment. You may serve your country in the civil, as much or more than in the military life; and the same Providence, which once directed

directed your absence from the councils of state, and offices of domestic employment, may now be conceived to point out your return to them with greater propriety. You may by your interest possibly procure the succession to your post for a virtuous brave friend, equally able with yourself to serve the public in that capacity: and I know, from the greatness of your heart, and the honesty of your sentiments, that you would take more pride in such a procurement, than in any repayment of money for a commission, accepted upon no mean lucrative view. Prevent, if I am so fortunate as to fall in with your opinion, or immediately follow your answer to this letter, and you will bless all your friends, but none so much, because none so near in relation and affection, as

Your

PHOEBE OSMOND.

Miss

Mis Osmond, To Lady Barbara L——.

Richmond,

Sept. 17, 1757.

I Plead Not guilty, to your ladyship's indictment; and am ready to accuse you of disaffection, for harbouring the least suspicion that I could be otherwise. That letter and card are certainly forged: neither of them either written, or caused to be written, by me or my dear guardian, who was provoked to say, she had heard of such mean stratagems, used by some men of base minds, to colour a revolt, of the nature of that Sir John Emlin appears inclined to make. But I cannot tell how to suspect, that a person of common sense, were he even destitute of common honour, would form so low a plot; one so easy to be detected, and the detection of which must be attended by the utmost ignominy. Let me, therefore, suppose with you, tho' I know not on what grounds to support the supposition, that he was deceived by some malicious incendiary; yet, that he could believe those ungenerous sentiments mine, communicate them

as

as such to Colonel L—, and return such an answer as I received from him, discovers so much dissingenuity, so great a degree of coldness, as has blasted the prospect I once had, of an union of minds; without which I can be happy in a single, but never can in a married state. You have piqued me, by the insinuation of my listening to any disadvantageous reports of Sir John. So far from it, I solemnly declare, no one ever attempted to lessen him in my esteem; and had they, he was too well established, to be removed; but from the testimony of his own hand, that he no longer deserved, or desired, the first place in it. From the highest opinion of your friendship, candour, and impartiality to us both, I own to you, there was a time when Sir John Emlin's presence was more grateful to me than any man's, because I believed mine was so to him: but since he has given me reason to think I was mistaken, and appears no longer the ingenuous artless lover I thought him; he cannot confer a greater obligation upon me, than by avoiding every place where

where there is any probability of our meeting. He banished himself voluntarily; consequently, I have no sentence to recall, nor you any cause to be offended with

Your most affectionate,
PHOEBE OSMOND.

CHAP. XV.

THE delay put to the alliance of Sir John Emlin and Miss Osmond, gave great concern to the friends of both parties; who were all of opinion, with Colonel L— and his Lady, it was occasioned by some envious rival, either of the gentleman's or lady's. No one, but Mr. Mortimer, and Mr. Capel, had made public pretensions to the latter; and neither of them could, with any propriety, be suspected guilty of using artifice to supplant a favoured lover. The friends in council therefore agreed to observe the motions of every one who had access to the family. In the mean time, Miss Osmond was endeavouring to wean her thoughts

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thoughts from the only man who had ever intruded into them, connected with the idea of love: whilst he, unable to solve the perplexed mystery of her behaviour to him, passed his hours in discontent at Emlin-Grove, tasteless of every amusement the country affords, yet preferring that solitude to any society in which she did not join. More than a fortnight had elapsed since she had set herself this task, when she received the following letter:

Sir Henry Osmond, To Miss Osmond.

Gibraltar, Sept. 27.

THE letter, in which appears all the soul of my dear girl, came expeditiously to hand; and I am happy in that, and in the opportunity of an immediate answer to it by a ship just setting out for England. You have certainly a quality which I did not perceive in you before; I mean that of a prophetess; since you discerned at that distance the very thought
and

and intention of my heart, which was, at the first favourable opportunity, to resign my post in favour of a gentleman better qualified to fill it, and not less a friend to his country, than to me. That opportunity is come; and I have put my scheme in such a train as will require but little time to compleat it; and then when the wind blows the same way with my desires, if it blows also as strongly, I will fly to the wishes and embraces of all that is dear to me upon earth. In the mean time, I neither doubt your honour nor your discretion, nor that of your friends, to whom I long to pay my acknowledgments; and should be extremely chagrined and disappointed, if Sir John Emlin was not of that number. Greatness of mind and little suspicions do not usually dwell together in the same breast; and it is a noble disappointment, when we mistake the goodness of another's heart, from the integrity of our own. If Sir John is the man I take him for, (and such he must be with me, till I have demonstration to the contrary) the clouds of ignorance, ma-

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lice, or envy, will soon disappear, and the brightness of his character will shine with more certainty and more lustre. If he is not the proper object of my esteem and your love, (which heaven forbid, for his own sake, as well as mine!) you will be happy in the timely discovery; and your situation in a false or capricious lover, will be much better than in a base ungenerous husband. But I cannot, I will not, wrong him so far as to think him capable of either character. It cannot be, that the man who never forfeited his honour in the least occasion, should lightly do it in the greatest; that he should reject, when equal, the person he courted with distraction, when inferior; and, by the most unaccountable pride, cease to love, when he can no longer oblige with his fortune and quality. My dear, there must be some mistake; and I hope you will be so happy as to find it before my arrival, that I may meet no bar to my eager desire of repaying the generosity of his offer of his person and estate, under the most forbidding appearances. How-
ever

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ever things may turn out, your virtue and conscious innocence will be your support and guide. You cannot be unhappy while you are good; nor despised while you are noble and just. Whatever loves may fail you, you will take some alleviation in the constant love of him, who knows not whether he more admires or dotes on you,

Your father,

HENRY OSMOND.

Colonel L——, To Lady Barbara L——.

Richmond, October 9.

QUITE cured of betting, my dear Lady Bab. No disagreeable information for you, who ever thought it an idle irrational practice; but I am now convinced it is an immoral one, and productive of the greatest mischief to society: I found Doctor Trew here, who, after the first salutations on my arrival, entered into a discourse with me, in which I had occasion to quote Sir John Emlin's opinion;

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nion ; and, fixing my eye upon Miss Osmond at the mention of his name, was pleased to remark a revolution in her countenance. The Doctor made inquiry after his health ; but the ladies did not deign to utter a syllable upon that head, and seemed rather to chuse a change of topic, when I said, his situation had been disagreeable enough, from the time he received sentence of banishment from that family.—“ By whom pronounced ? ” said Lady Foster. I then produced the card, and answered, ‘ You will there see, Madam. His behaviour must be very inconsistent with his general character, to deserve so severe a punishment ; and as I think you are both too generous to inflict such an unmerited one, I must beg to know the nature of his crime.’—“ And can you ask that, Colonel ? when I assure you, that card is forged ; by whom I know not ; but neither Miss Osmond or I ever sent it ; and the ungenerous use he has made of it, in communicating it to you, as a plea for his unaccountable neglect, induced Miss
“ Osmond

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“ Osmond to write as she did to Lady
 “ Bab.” — ‘ I never saw that letter to my
 ‘ wife, which your Ladyship mentions ;
 ‘ but I have seen one of a former date, in
 ‘ which I think this fair lady is even with
 ‘ him as to crediting appearances ; and
 ‘ cannot, with any propriety, accuse him
 ‘ of a crime of which she is equally
 ‘ guilty.’ — ‘ I do not know what you
 “ mean, Colonel,” said Miss Osmond. —
 ‘ Pray, Madam, were you not as free in
 ‘ your communications, and much more
 ‘ so in your censures, than Sir John ?’ —
 “ Upon my word, Colonel, I know not
 “ that I have been so ; nor can I guess
 “ what you refer to.” — ‘ To that epistle,
 ‘ Madam, in which you inserted a copy of
 ‘ one, you supposed you received from Sir
 ‘ John Emlin.’ — ‘ *Supposed*, Sir !’ — ‘ Aye,
 ‘ *supposed*, Madam ! for I can affirm it
 ‘ never came from him : and then which
 ‘ is most to be blamed for their credu-
 ‘ lity ?’ — I perceived, at this question, the
 brightest vermillion overspread one of the
 finest faces in the world, when, with some
 hesitation, these words were pronounced. —

“ You surprise me, Sir! — If you can
 “ make it appear that Sir John was not
 “ the inditer of that letter” — “ You will
 “ receive him into your good graces, Ma-
 “ dam; will you promise that?” — “ Un-
 “ conditionally, Colonel, I should be
 “ obliged if you would clear up this
 “ point.” — “ *One* condition, Madam, I
 “ must make, before I know whether you
 “ deserve it; and that is, the favour of
 “ perusing the copy of that letter Lady
 “ Foster mentioned to my wife.” — “ There
 “ it is, Sir, and her reply.” — I had no
 sooner perused yours, than the scheme ap-
 peared to me to be as it has turned out.
 — I begged leave to withdraw a while
 with Doctor Trew, to whom I commu-
 nicated my suspicions; and he being of
 opinion I had good grounds for my con-
 jectures, when we returned to the ladies,
 we asked if they could recollect the ab-
 sence of any servant out of their family
 on the 12th of last month? Lady Foster
 answered, “ I cannot be positive as to the
 “ very day; but Jerry had my permission
 “ to visit his relations at some miles di-
 “ stant,

“stant, I think at that time, and staid a
 “night.”—I desired he might be called
 in; and immediately on his appearance,
 (looking steadily in his face) “Pray, Sir,”
 said I, “did Mr. Leach give you that
 “*Card* himself, which you left at Emlin
 “Grove, on the 12th of September?”—
 ‘Mr. Leach, Sir! — I don’t know what
 ‘your Honour means,’ — “I ask you,
 “Jerry, whether Mr. Leach delivered
 “that card to you himself, or not?”—
 ‘Sir! your honour is pleased to be merry;
 ‘I know nothing of Mr. Leach.’—“No,
 “Sir, I chuse to be serious on this occa-
 “sion, and expect you should be so; and
 “reply honestly to the question I have-
 “put, or I shall take the liberty to extort
 “a confession by other means.”—‘Sir!
 ‘I—, I—, I—, don’t know.’—“You
 “know, fellow, whether he gave it you,
 “or who did; for I know you carried a
 “card there on that day; and if you would
 “not have your livery stripped off, and
 “be turned out of this family, with every
 “mark of shame, you must confess who
 “employed you on that errand.”—Down

dropped the fellow on his knees, crying,
 ‘ I hope your Honour, and their Lady-
 ‘ ships, will forgive me; for I had great
 ‘ temptation for what I did.’ — “ We will
 “ all pardon you,” said Lady Foster, “ if
 “ you confess the truth : ” — “ And all that
 ‘ you know relating to Mr. Leach,’ added
 I. — “ An please your Honour, I will —
 “ It may be a month or five weeks ago,
 “ when one of Mr. Leach’s servants, Wil-
 “ liam Grant, scraped acquaintance with
 “ me; and, in the way of conversation, he
 “ asked me, how the match went forward
 “ between Sir John Emlin and the young
 “ lady in our family ? — I said, I could
 “ certify nothing about the matter : that
 “ indeed we supposed, by what Sir John’s
 “ servants said of their master’s being go-
 “ ing to The Grove, to prepare for the
 “ wedding, that it would not be long
 “ before it happened. — Will. said, he
 “ was sorry for it; for he believed his
 “ master desired to *arrival* Sir John; and
 “ as he was the most *generosist* gentleman
 “ to his servants, and every person that
 “ obliged him, it would be a much hap-
 “ pier

“ pier match for the lady ; tho’ Sir John
 “ was to be sure a noble gentleman, but
 “ he could not have the wealth that his
 “ master had ; for he would come in some-
 “ times three or four days together in one
 “ week, and throw handfuls of gold out of
 “ his pocket, as if it was no more than
 “ copper ; and he never sent him on the
 “ *leffest* arrand extraordinary without giv-
 “ ing him a guinea ; and as I, he heard,
 “ was trusted with the carriage of the let-
 “ ters to and fro, that belonged to our
 “ family, if I would punctually deliver to
 “ him all that came to or from my lady
 “ and Miss Osmond, he would give me
 “ a broad piece for every one, and return
 “ the letters he received : so I gave him
 “ that which Miss Osmond sent me with
 “ to Sir John, just after he went to Emlin-
 “ Grove, and that which Sir John returned
 “ to her : and I delivered two others which
 “ he gave me, according to order, in their
 “ places. — To be sure he offered me five
 “ guineas to carry one on the 12th of Sep-
 “ tember, when I had leave of my lady
 “ to go to see my friends ; but if it has

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“ caused any disturbance, I am to be sure
 “ very sorry for it ; and I hope your Ho-
 “ nours will forgive me. Indeed, and up-
 “ on my word, this is, of a truth, all I
 “ know of the matter, as I have a soul to
 “ be saved.”

We dismissed the fellow, after sharply upbraiding him : and to every one present, from his confession, and the style of the letters, it evidently appeared, that Leach has been mean enough to bribe a servant to swerve from his duty in an essential point ; interrupt the agreeable intercourse between two happy lovers, by forgery, and perplex them and their friends, merely to delay their union, and obtain his bett. I was for concealing the knowledge of this affair from the vile incendiary, till he had been obliged to pay for his folly ; but Doctor Trew is of opinion, that the fraud should be immediately published, if it was only to deter others from engaging with him in a practice on which his chief support depends.

You furnished Miss Osmond with a plea, which she caught at ; and said
 much

much uneasiness would have been avoided, if Sir John, instead of writing, had made his personal appearance: for an interview must have cleared up the matter.—I represented to her the strict prohibition he had received from her, as it appeared to him: but I find, in cases of this nature, you fair ladies expect a lover should not credit his own senses; for tho' she vouchsafes to acknowledge his sufferings to be great, and his treatment ill in the affair, and that she has *now* no resentment against him (thank her for nothing) for crimes he was *not* guilty of, we were all obliged to use many arguments, before we could prevail with her to permit Doctor Trew to write an account of this eclairsissement to him.

If you mean to be pardoned for giving her that hint, you must say something in his vindication; and to furnish you with undeniable materials for this purpose, I transmit to you the inclosed, which you may make use of in your own way. On the full detection of the above affair, I wrote an account of it to Sir Charles

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Wilding, and told him the unfair practices used by his opponent to cheat him of his bett; and that it concerned his honour, as much as that of the injured parties, to make Leach own himself a scoundrel, or, upon refusal, to treat him as such. I received the inclosed answer; which, as you see, is addressed to,

Dear Madam,

Your intirely devoted,

A. L——.

To Colonel L——.

Dear Colonel,

YOU have kindly awakened me to a sense of my own levity, and a shame for the inconveniences undesignedly brought by it upon the worthiest man and woman I know in the nation. For though I am of a turn for gaiety, I start at the name and thought of baseness or disingenuity: and would rather never laugh as long as I lived, than do it at the real expence of any one breathing. I heartily ask pardon for the injuries I never intended, nor could have foreseen;

seen; and know not whether I shall ever be myself again, if I am not permitted the favour of having the pardon I ask, for my share of offence, sealed by Sir John, on the hand of the injured lady.—

At the first time and place (both which I chose should be publick) that I met Leach; after the receipt of yours, I called him to account for the basest of intrigues, and the forfeiture of the name and the rights of a gentleman; said, that if he would not own himself a rascal, I should be obliged to give him the treatment proper to that character; nay, if he did not own it under his hand in a letter to me, which I might communicate to the persons concerned. I gave him till next day for this penance, when I received the following from him.

ROT me! Sir Charles, if you did not put me into some bodily fright from the sternness of your behaviour yesterday. It was however a little cruel to expose me in so publick a manner, for what I would willingly have asked pardon on my knees, either at your house, or my own lodgings.

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ings. I acknowledge the facts charged upon me, and all the transactions between my servant and Jerry: but it was only with the innocent design of winning a wager I stood much in need of, and without any malice prepenſe, I aſſure you to the perſons I made free with. But you inſiſt upon my owning myſelf a rascal; under my own hand. I here then do it; but muſt inſiſt upon it, I am a fashionable rascal, if you mean by that name (and in no other ſenſe it can belong to me) an indigent man, who muſt get money by all means out of the reach of law, which are juſtified by mode, and can be raiſed from the follies and diſſipation of thoſe, who thus, perhaps, chuſe to relieve the wants of their indigent brethren: and ſo, poſſibly, after all, it may not be cheating: Conſider, good Baronet, that you, who are born to eſtates, are bad caſuiſts for thoſe younger brothers, who have as much taſte for modern pleaſures as yourſelves, but are denied the fortune to ſupport it. And who now, even of thoſe not under this temptation, ſcruple to tip the wink,
or

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or change a card, when a stake of value is depending? It seems to be a civil allowed way of plunder; an agreed method of the polite world, to correct the unequal distribution of things; and in this rank I hope you, and your friends, will place the *Forgery* (an ugly word, indeed! change it for *Address*) of

Your servant,

LEACH.

Lady Barbara L——, To Miss Osmond.

Bond-street, Oct. 9.

I AM exuberantly happy, and in the highest flow of spirits imaginable, upon receipt of the packet, which I inclose, from my soldier; whom I love more and more for the services he has done you, as well as for those he always obliges me with. These letters, which are from the two wagers, contain the most just and droll piece of penance that ever was invented or performed: and I really think, Sir Charles has deserved by it the favour he asks of pardon, and of sealing it by kissing
ing

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ing your hand, or your face, if you please. I laugh while I write: indeed I have done nothing else, since I beheld the poor rogue in his habit of sackcloth, making his downcast appearance and aukward confession to the whole circle of his acquaintance, and labouring to raise a little mirth, to cover his confusion, and favour his escape. I dance from one end of the room to the other, and contrast the former perplexities with the present state of things. I fancy I see Sir John in his gardens, pensive, outrageous, despairing, in a labyrinth of doubts and imaginations, without one avenue of light into it, or hope of escape out. Then, all the woman rising in the breast of the imaginary sufferer, the slighted fair, and her careful-maternal guardian.—It will burst out some way or other; I am weary of laughing; take it in doggrel, and laugh with me, or at me, which you please, as long as I know you are happy.

I am, my dear, extremely pleas'd,
To find your anger is appeas'd:

The

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The man, it seems, is free from blame:
 He still preserv'd an ardent flame;
 And lov'd with so much violence,
 It quits o'er-turn'd his common sense;
 Made him appear a recreant knight,
 Meditating trait'rous flight.
 'Tis not improbable, he'd sworn,
 Ere to his charmer he'd return,
 Some doughty enterprize should prove
 His prowess equal to his love.
 This might be, sure, his rash intent,
 Altho' to cross it fortune meant,
 Who sent no monster in his way,
 With whom he might commence a fray.
 His pit'ous plight, I make no doubt,
 (Did we search Emlin-Grove throughout)
 Each wounded bark will now record,
 Pierc'd with the pen-knife of its lord.
 Should you continue still severe,
 More dreadful ills I've cause to fear;
 The dagger, or the poison'd bowl,
 Perchance, might let out his great soul;
 Or he might tempt the fatal pond,
 Known by the name of Rosamond.
 A tragic scene, unthought by you,
 Is ever present to my view;

Ev'n

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Ev'n now, the baleful aconite,
The rope, the dagger's in my sight !
Avert, then, these disasters fell,
If you love him, and—Barbara L——.

I told you, you were not to expect sense from me : accept of rhyme ; 'tis the best I have at present. Your next meeting with Sir John I shall look upon as a second courtship, and I will positively be at it, as I had some share in the first ; and for that purpose will bring Sir John along with me to Richmond, to-morrow, or next day. Till then, adieu.

C H A P. XVI.

THE third day after sending this epistle, which had raised the expectation of the family at Richmond, and set one heart at least a going, a servant opened the door of the room where they were sitting after dinner, and was followed by Lady Bab, who, holding Sir John Emlyn by the hand, said, “ Here is the fugitive, whom I have taken the liberty to
“ intro-

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“ introduce, without the ceremony of previous notice. But, ladies, whatever want of manners there may appear in this proceeding, there is none in him ; it is all my own. He, like a true disconsolate lover, would have kept a respectful distance, for weeks at least ; blotted I know not how much paper with tears and apologies, before he had presumed to shew his face to his once offended fair one.”—She was just going on, when Miss Osmond, rising, and taking her hand, said, ‘ If this gentleman had wanted an introducer, he could not have chosen a more agreeable one than your Ladyship. But Sir John Emlin,’ turning at the instant upon him, with a smile of complacency, and taking his hand for Lady Bab’s, which she quitted, ‘ can want no introduction but his own, to one who always esteemed him, and who had, upon the justest considerations, given reason to expect more than esteem ; being warranted to do it by the consent of one parent present, and another who she hoped would soon be so, the

‘ the judgment of her friends, and the
 ‘ deliberate consent of her own eyes and
 ‘ heart.’ Sir John, bowing on the hand
 which held his, continued silent for some
 moments ; but recovering himself, said,
 “ You are born to excell, and you will al-
 “ ways do it. I came as a sort of crimi-
 “ nal; criminal by accident and design of
 “ others, not my own ; to lay myself at
 “ your feet, and ask forgiveness for my
 “ folly, in denying myself so long the
 “ happiness of addressing you, and clear-
 “ ing up the occasion of your displeasure,
 “ or sinking under it. But if you knew
 “ my heart, and what has passed in it,
 “ since that supposed cruel command of
 “ absence, you would think me sufficient-
 “ ly punished for my momentary misap-
 “ prehension of you. But you have seen
 “ that heart, and seen it all yours ; or you
 “ could not with so much goodness have
 “ prevented my confusion, and raised me
 “ again to life and you, by a declaration
 “ which does this publick honour to my
 “ dearest pretensions. Oh ! Madam, you
 “ oppress me with all this sweetness; and
 “ I almost

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“I almost wish you would chide me, tho’
 “that is not your talent, that I might re-
 “cover my senses.”— ‘I do then chide
 ‘you,’ said the smiling charmer, ‘for
 ‘your absence, whatever was the supposed
 ‘cause; and for believing any one, or any
 ‘thing, but myself, and my own words,
 ‘to the prejudice of my honour, in an
 ‘engagement of this nature. But you
 ‘must allow me to plead your excuse,
 ‘since I have named your only fault;
 ‘which was my own, as well as yours.
 ‘Misrepresentation had spread a mist of
 ‘indistinction between us, which enlarged
 ‘some things, and lessened others, beyond
 ‘their proportion; and I could not see Sir
 ‘John Emlin, nor he Miss Osmond, as
 ‘they really were. But the dissipation of
 ‘this cloud of error has made me attend
 ‘to more reasons for justifying my choice,
 ‘than I discerned before; as the sun is
 ‘known to break out with purer lustre,
 ‘after emerging from the vapours which
 ‘obscured him.’—“I am sure,” said the
 raptured lover, “I need but to see you
 “as you are, to see the fairest and most
 “amiable

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“ amiable of women.”—‘ I protest,’ cried Lady Bab, throwing herself into a chair, whose example was followed by the whole company, ‘ this is very pretty. Cannot ‘ married folks, as well as those who are ‘ going to be so, quarrel a little, for the ‘ pleasure of making up matters in this ‘ genteel easy manner? I think I must ‘ set about it some way or other. But will ‘ you say such soft things as this gentleman?’—“ Will you,” replied the Colonel, “ give me the same occasion of saying them, as this lady has done?—I “ will not wait your answer, but desire “ you would give your voice to a song “ out of Hercules, whose words, as well “ sounds, I think are pretty ; and expressive of the subject we are upon.—I will “ repeat them to the company, before you “ improve them by singing them.”

Constant lovers never roving,
 Never jealous torments proving,
 Calm imperfect pleasures taste:
 But the bliss to rapture growing,
 Bliss from reconciliation flowing,
 This is love’s sublime repast.

Silent

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Silent attention, which had accompanied the sonnet, gave place to universal commendation of the performance, and the performer, and acknowledgment of her readiness to oblige, and her happy address in doing it. Lady Foster, however, begged leave to observe, that, notwithstanding the melody and easy turn of the lines, and the pretty image of the sublime pleasure of reconciliation, and the above allusions to the sun shining brighter after a shower; “ she would advise no
 “ couple already joined, or any *soon* go-
 “ ing into the married state, to try so dan-
 “ gerous an experiment as that which
 “ wants reconciliation. I remember,” continued the good lady, “ that I once
 “ caught Sir Ambrose with an unusual
 “ degree of complacency reading and re-
 “ peating a line, which, he said, it was
 “ impossible for him to express to me in
 “ the native beauty of the original Latin,
 “ which runs thus (for I got the sound of
 “ the words, and shall never forget them,
 “ or the sense of them :)—

Nunquam

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Nunquam cum matre redii in gratiam,

“ Literally rendered, (remember, it is Sir
 “ Ambrose speaks) says no more, than I
 “ never returned into favour with my mother;
 “ but means a more delicate sentiment;
 “ I never quarrelled with my mother,
 “ never had occasion for a reconciliation
 “ with her. A broken limb may
 “ unite again, with no loss of beauty and
 “ use, and with an increase of strength;
 “ and yet, I think, no one, in his right
 “ senses, would break a leg, in hopes of its
 “ growing stronger by the fracture. Perfect
 “ innocence is better than repentance;
 “ and reconciliation can be but the second,
 “ tho’ best, thing after disagreement. Indeed
 “ it has been said, the squabbles of
 “ lovers are the restoration and renewal
 “ of love; but then these are the imper-
 “ tinences of loose and capricious people,
 “ who unhallow the name of love, and
 “ want the poignancy of little disputes and
 “ passions to relieve the cloying satiety of
 “ irregular gratifications, without trust,
 “ friendship, reliance, esteem, and the
 “ eternal pleasing exchange of good offices,
 “ which

“ which constitute the ambition and felicity of unions, founded in sense, virtue, and taste.”—‘ Oh, Madam,’ cried Sir John, ‘ what a delightful picture have you drawn of a happiness, which one couple in the company already enjoy, and another you said *soon* should! The word *soon*, I remember well, it darted thro’ my whole frame, and fired me with the most pleasing expectation. But what is expectation?’ Then throwing himself at her feet, continued, ‘ You are the parent, the only one of that dear name present, who have a right to this application. Remember the hopes, the impatience, the honest impatience, your single word *soon* raised in me; and do not extinguish the new life you gave me, by not naming a day for my complete happiness, and that the *soonest*, that can be named with propriety, and my soul will run forward to it, and not suffer me to doubt the compliance, which duty with love will conspire to obtain from the most ingenuous and kindest of her sex.’—“ Relieve me from that posture,

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“ Sir John, due only to the real parent of
 “ this lady, and not to one, who only out
 “ of love and real affection assumes, and
 “ would deserve, that name. He is ex-
 “ pected in a fortnight at farthest, and
 “ may be here sooner; and tho’ he has
 “ promised, would doubtless be glad to
 “ give himself the hand he promised.”—
 ‘ A fortnight! and that left to the mercy
 ‘ of winds and waves! O! Madam, days
 ‘ are ages with men in my situation.’—
 “ A fortnight, Sir John, can hardly be
 “ thought too much for some things of
 “ settlement, and decent preparation, ne-
 “ cessary on the occasion.”—He started
 forward, and said, ‘ As to settlement, I
 ‘ throw a Carte blanche; and if you
 ‘ please to fill it up with the entail of my
 ‘ whole estate, I shall not think it too
 ‘ much, Madam.’—“ Your generosity,
 “ Sir,” said the good lady, “does not more
 “ oblige than it embarrasses those who
 “ have any concern in this affair, and
 “ strengthens the necessity of waiting the
 “ arrival of the only proper judge between
 “ his daughter and you. But, Sir, as you
 “ expressed

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“ expressed an apprehension of farther delay from the accidents of a voyage, if my daughter (for so she and you will allow me to call her) has no objection, I will venture to set Thursday se’ennight for the day desired, and will endeavour to make all the dispositions I can, hoping Sir Henry’s return within the time ; but if that hope fails, promising on my part to act without him.”—Sir John bowed in acknowledgment; and turning to Miss Osmond, and taking her hand, said, with tears of joy and transport, “ Will you pronounce me happy?” She blushed, and bowed consent: and both received the congratulations of the company on the occasion.

C H A P. XVII.

THE next day Sir John left the ladies, and went to Emlin-Grove, to make proper dispositions for their reception at the approaching time. He said, at parting, “ He need not say his absence would be short; it was not in his power

“to make it long.”—After he had given the necessary orders at The Grove, he went to town, to bespeak clothes and liveries, and to execute a much more agreeable purpose, of having an unconditional marriage-settlement made of fifteen hundred pounds a year, which he executed upon the spot, and brought with him at his return to Richmond. The ladies there, during his absence, were not engaged in a much different manner. Thoughts employed their solitude, and the no mean female concern of dress and accommodation their companionable hours: the place was agreed to be Richmond, and Doctor Trew was to perform the ceremony; the guests of the family were to be all present, and stay till that affair was over, and till the arrival of Sir Henry, sooner or later. The matter of settlement was not forgot; and it was resolved, as most agreeable to the sentiments and intimations on that head from abroad, to accept of no more than five hundred pounds, and leave all other money matters till Sir Henry arrived. Some days had elapsed, when Sir John
came,

came, as fast as horses could draw him, to the seat of love and delight, from whence he had never been absent a moment in fancy and desire. He recounted the variety of his employs at The Grove, but said, he had only studied necessary convenience, and had left embellishment to the better taste of her, who was to be the mistress of it and him. He then produced his settlement, rather in compliance with their sentiments, than his own, he said, which would have made it much larger. Due praise was allowed to the gentility of his proposal; but he was informed at the same time, that such a settlement was not agreeable to the gentleman abroad, or his daughter's friends at home; and that only a third part of it would be accepted, in case Sir Henry did not come before the time. Days and hours were numbered and passed, in slow or quicker succession, according to the difference of imagination in the reckoners, when at length arrived the afternoon of that day which preceded that of the nuptials. They were sitting in the dining-

room, and computing the length of the voyage from Gibraltar to England, and the slender hopes there now were of seeing Sir Henry on this interesting occasion; when they heard an equipage stop at the gate, and soon followed a message from a gentleman, who stepped out of it, and desired to be admitted to Lady Foster, and her company. Lady Foster rose hastily, and was advanced some steps to receive him, when he entered the room, and saluting her, said, "He was fortunate in meeting the first object of his gratitude and acknowledgments. For what," continued he, "am I not indebted to that mother of my dearest child, who left her no room to miss the most indulgent and amiable relation of that name in the world?" At that instant seeing his daughter, who had been for some time bathing his hand with her tears, he caught her in his arms, and clasping her to his breast, cried, "O my child! this is your place, nearest my heart." Sir John, turning suddenly to him, and embracing him, "Here is room also for you

“you; for you and that dear creature are
 “one, or are to be one: which is it?
 “Am I come too late for my wish?”—
 “No, Sir: to-morrow is’—“Then I am
 “happy.”—“But, Sir Henry,” said Lady
 Foster, “the scene is too affecting; let
 “me intreat you to sit down, and suspend
 “for a moment the flow of your generous
 “sentiments.”—“No, Madam,” he re-
 plied, “not till I have paid my acknow-
 “ledgments to the three other persons
 “in the room, whom I suppose to be all
 “friends to my dear child, because they
 “are with her in your house; and if they
 “are her friends, they are mine, and I
 “must be greatly obliged to them.”—
 “You are not mistaken,” said Lady Foster,
 “they are indeed her friends; and have
 “shewed themselves so upon every occa-
 “sion which could call for assistance from
 “sense, courage, humanity, and honour.”
 —“You need not name them,” answered
 Sir Henry: “I know them, by your pic-
 “ture, to be Colonel L—— and Lady
 “Barbara, whose kind offices my daugh-
 “ter has so often recounted to me in let-

"ters, which affected my heart, and ever
 "will affect it, while one spark of justice
 "or honour is alive in it. And this gen-
 "tleman," turning to Doctor Trew,
 "must, by his habit, be that worthiest
 "of clergymen to whom my child was
 "indebted for her rescue from one of
 "her distresses, and a series of good of-
 "fices. Sir, I thank you; I thank you
 "all. I can no more at present: give
 "me leave to sit, and calm the hurry of
 "all these pleasing emotions." The com-
 pany being seated, and engaging in dif-
 ferent parties of conversation, Lady Foster
 ordered tea, and asked Sir Henry what
 voyage he had, and when he arrived.
 "I really, Madam," said he, "am al-
 "most ashamed to tell you, lest I should
 "appear an idle, or an insensible crea-
 "ture, to my most concerning interest.
 "After a good voyage, if a quick and
 "very fatiguing one may be called so, I
 "landed in England last Saturday about
 "noon; and after some little refreshment,
 "got to town that night. The next day
 "was a necessary rest from business on its
 "own

" own account, and from any labour on
 " my own, who stood much in need of it.
 " On Monday morning I sent a servant to
 " Argyle Buildings, to make the compli-
 " ments of a gentleman, without men-
 " tioning my name, to Lady Foster, if
 " there; and if not, to inquire after the
 " health of the family, and their present
 " residence, and to pick out, in purposed
 " chat, what news he could about them.
 " My man, who is not an insensible fel-
 " low, found means to get out of your
 " servant what intelligence he wanted—
 " That Lady Foster and Miss Osmond
 " were at Richmond, with a great deal of
 " other company, and were not expected
 " in town till after the wedding."—"Dear
 " Mrs. Deborah!" "Martha, if you
 " please," said the wench. "I am glad of it"
 said Joe: "Patty is a much prettier name
 " than Deb: What wedding?"—"Why,
 " hav'nt you heard of it? the town and
 " country rings of it: it has been off
 " and on, I know not how many times;
 " and dismal work has been about it! and
 " I don't wonder at it, for she is a sweet
 O 5 " lady;

' lady; and they say now is certainly to
 ' be married to Sir John Emlin.'—" But
 " when, pray, my dear? do you know?"
 —' Not exactly, but I fancy it may be a
 ' week or two first; for a servant of my
 ' lady's, who was here with some orders
 ' about some of the wedding things, told
 ' me, Sir John Emlin was at Richmond,
 ' and that it would surely be a match at
 ' last: but, from some words dropp'd
 ' while he was waiting at table, it was
 ' thought they waited for the coming
 ' home of Miss Osmond's father, who was
 ' expected in a few weeks.' " Joe, who had
 " got his errand, said, ' Weddings put one
 ' in mind of little civilities;' and begging
 " a salute, parted.—This information,
 " I thought, gave a furlough of absence
 " from you for a few days, which I had
 " business enough for. I was going to
 " write, but could not deny myself the
 " pleasure of a surprize. I had something
 " necessary to be done in the affair I was
 " going to Richmond about, and it was
 " proper to change the old soldier's wea-
 " ther-beaten dress and appearance, for
 " one

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“ one more suited to the joy of the occa-
“ sion, and the dignity of the bridegroom,
“ While these things were preparing, I
“ thought I might do some few acts of
“ justice, resolved upon before my arrival
“ in England. You may remember, Ma-
“ dam, I mentioned to you the tender
“ kindness of good Mrs. Agnis in my
“ distress, and that, at her death, she left
“ my daughter five hundred pounds,
“ which she had saved up by her prudent
“ œconomy. Upon inquiry, I luckily
“ found out two of her near relations,
“ who wanted just double that sum to
“ place them in an advantageous situa-
“ tion: I sent for them, and engaged my-
“ self for the money, and saw them happy
“ in the desired situation.”—“ Generous
“ Sir Henry!” said the delighted lady.—
“ Not at all, Madam; I do not look upon
“ it in that light, but as an act of strict
“ justice. My daughter had a right to the
“ kind legacy, as long as she wanted it;
“ that ceasing, it devolved in all reason to
“ those who had the nearest claim to her
“ relation and benevolence: and the ad-

' lady; and they say now is certainly to
 ' be married to Sir John Emlin.'—" But
 " when, pray, my dear? do you know?"
 —' Not exactly, but I fancy it may be a
 ' week or two first; for a servant of my
 ' lady's, who was here with some orders
 ' about some of the wedding things, told
 ' me, Sir John Emlin was at Richmond,
 ' and that it would surely be a match at
 ' last: but, from some words dropp'd
 ' while he was waiting at table, it was
 ' thought they waited for the coming
 ' home of Miss Osmond's father, who was
 ' expected in a few weeks.' " Joe, who had
 " got his errand, said, ' Weddings put one
 " in mind of little civilities;' and begging
 " a salute, parted.—This information,
 " I thought, gave a furlough of absence
 " from you for a few days, which I had
 " business enough for. I was going to
 " write, but could not deny myself the
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"dition was little more than the common
 "interest; and therefore it was not *giv-*
 "ing, but *paying*. I would have given
 "myself the pleasure of an interview with
 "my poor sister Mortimer, but found I
 "was obliged to defer it to a more pro-
 "per season. You will wonder how the
 "pretended wife of my father came into
 "my thoughts at such a time; but she
 "did; and I wanted to see, or write to
 "her, partly upon my own account, and
 "something upon hers. She has left Do-
 "ver-street; but the inquiry there fur-
 "nished me an opportunity of writing to
 "her. I told her of my return, and my
 "concern for her situation, and the cause
 "of it: that I did not write to insult, but
 "lessen, her misfortune; not to reproach,
 "but excuse, her fault: that she had the
 "extenuation of being a woman, pressed
 "by the commands of a husband, and
 "unable to sustain the shock of a father's
 "displeasure: that heaven itself seemed
 "to have made a distinction of the guilt
 "of the three parties, as he did on occa-
 "sion of the first transgression, by the se-
 "vere-

“ vere fate of two of them, and the re-
 “ spite of the other for repentance, which
 “ I was glad to hear she was devoted to ;
 “ and if she could obtain pardon from
 “ God, upon the most constant and sin-
 “ cere asking, she might be sure of mine,
 “ without asking at all : and in token of
 “ it, I resolved to settle upon her for life
 “ three hundred pounds a year, which she
 “ might reckon, and act upon, as com-
 “ mencing from the date of this letter ;
 “ and that after I had settled my affairs
 “ at Osmond-place, I would either bring
 “ or send her the deed. I requested her
 “ to send me what surveys she had of the
 “ estate, being wanted for a present occa-
 “ sion ; and the keys and inventories of
 “ what jewels, &c. were in her or her
 “ son’s possession ; and this by the bearer,
 “ who was going into Devonshire, to put
 “ things in order for my reception. She
 “ said, her confusion and tears would not
 “ permit her to write an answer to my
 “ kind letter, but she would take some
 “ opportunity of throwing herself at my
 “ feet ; and had sent faithfully the things
 “ demanded

“ demanded of her. The lawyers had by
 “ this time done what I wanted for my
 “ journey; and I pursued it, till I came
 “ into this, the most agreeable company
 “ to me in the world. The things must
 “ be necessary ones, which could keep
 “ me from the embraces of my dearest
 “ child three days.”

‘ Your delay,’ said the Colonel, ‘ must
 ‘ be thought longer than three days, or
 ‘ as many weeks, if we were to measure
 ‘ it by our own impatience to see you, or
 ‘ the many affairs you have transacted.’
 “ Sir,” replied Sir Henry, “ while I live,
 “ I shall always be acting; and if I was
 “ not so happy as to be directed to do
 “ what in my apprehension is right, I
 “ should be a very busy creature in
 “ doing mischief: and I now think ac-
 “ tions, at least good ones, not hours,
 “ days, and years, to be the true way of
 “ estimating time, and judging of the
 “ length or shortness of human life.—
 “ But, Sir John, I have some business to
 “ do with you, and the hours hasten to
 “ bring on the night, which is to be fol-
 “ lowed

“lowed by the day; I know what you
 “lovers would call it, the happy day;
 “happy indeed to me, since I doubt not
 “its being so to you. To-morrow, I
 “think you say.”—“Yes, Sir, if you
 “please to give your sanction.”—“O! with
 “pleasure I do it. Let me ever increase,
 “and never delay a moment, the happiness
 “in my power to give.”

“I must inform you, Sir,” said Lady
 Foster, “that Sir John made an uncon-
 “ditional offer of his whole estate in set-
 “tlement; and when that was thought not
 “agreeable to your sentiments, actually
 “brought one ready executed for fifteen
 “hundred a year. Irresolute what to do
 “in your absence, we ventured to accept
 “five hundred, and leave the rest to your
 “arrival and determination.”—“I know
 “not,” said Sir Henry, “whether I am
 “more obliged by the generosity of one
 “party, or the prudent limits set to it by
 “the other; but I heartily thank you
 “both. Pray let me see the two parch-
 “ments you have mentioned.” He re-
 ceived them, and slightly looking into
 them,

them, flung both into the fire: and then, turning to Sir John, said, "You must
 "excuse me, Sir; you have hitherto had
 "the time for exerting your amiable dis-
 "positions; I must have mine to do jus-
 "tice to my own sentiments. I must
 "have no reply; if you will have my
 "daughter with my consent, it must be
 "upon my own terms, which, I hope,
 "will not appear unreasonable." At the
 instant he took out of his pocket three
 parchments; the first containing a con-
 veyance of a thousand pounds a year to
 Sir John Emlin, which he signed and de-
 livered in the presence of the company.
 "The second," said he, smiling, "is a
 "revocation of this gift, or rather an
 "appropriation of it: by it you are to
 "settle this very thousand a year as a join-
 "ture on my daughter, and that abso-
 "lutely for your joint use, during mar-
 "riage; and afterwards, to her and her
 "heirs for ever. I know, Sir, the plea-
 "sure of giving, and am willing to se-
 "cure my girl that satisfaction, for an
 "exercise of her generous dispositions.
 "The

“ The third is a deed of conveyance of
 “ another thousand pounds a year, with
 “ the mansion-house, to take place after
 “ my decease; and then to be yours,
 “ during your joint-lives; her’s, for life
 “ only, in case of survivorship; and, at
 “ her death, to revert to your heirs and
 “ executors, and be at the same absolute
 “ disposal with your own inheritance.”

Sir John was going to speak, when he
 was desired to remember conditions : and
 Sir Henry continued, “ After due execu-
 “ tion of the several deeds, the rest of my
 “ estate you must leave at present for the
 “ maintenance of an old man: but I will
 “ tell you what, probably, I shall do with
 “ it; for do something, as I told you be-
 “ fore, I must, while I exist. With part
 “ of it, I shall endeavour to support the
 “ honour of my family, in all the acts of
 “ justice and humanity which may offer
 “ themselves to me: the poor will have
 “ their share, and particularly all the pub-
 “ lick charities, which have been the
 “ glory, and are perhaps the security, of
 “ our nation: the remainder will be yours;
 “ but

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“ but as that remainder is an uncertain
 “ sum, I chuse it should be yours by gift,
 “ and not by bargain.” All present
 shewed their approbation every way that
 silence could express it; when he went
 on, speaking to Sir John, “ Your gene-
 “ rous heart seems to labour under the
 “ oppression of being obliged: I cannot
 “ do any thing that can set me free, nor
 “ do I desire any thing should set me free,
 “ from being greatly obliged to you. You
 “ are the first man I would chuse for my
 “ friend, and the best man I could wish
 “ for my nearest relation. You rescued
 “ my daughter, when unknown, from the
 “ greatest of dangers; this was your hu-
 “ manity: you loved her when seen; when
 “ known; nay, when unknown, under all
 “ the appearance of distress, and destitu-
 “ tion of fortune and friends: you would
 “ not believe the report of others, nor the
 “ testimony of your own senses, to her
 “ disadvantage. You loved her, as she
 “ appeared virtuous; you would not cease
 “ to hope and love her, when she ap-
 “ peared otherwise: you gave her all
 “ things,

“ things, desired nothing, but herself.
 “ What an assemblage is this of worthy
 “ passion, steady affection, candour, gene-
 “ rosity, and all the qualities, which con-
 “ stitute the dignity of human nature!”—

Rising, he took his daughter by the hand,
 and, putting it into Sir John's, said, “ I
 “ here join your hands: to-morrow I shall
 “ have the supreme pleasure of doing it
 “ in a more solemn manner. I give you,
 “ Sir John, the best gift I have to give
 “ you; and if the sentiments of a fond
 “ father may be indulged—nay, blush
 “ not, my child, at the overflowings of
 “ my heart, and suffer me to finish my
 “ sentence—I give you, Sir John, a wo-
 “ man equal in every desirable quality to
 “ any man, but him to whom I give her.”

The notice of supper put an end to this
 affecting conversation, and left the com-
 pany at liberty to recollect what had passed,
 and turn for a time to more indifferent
 subjects.

C H A P. XVIII.

THE reader, who has a taste for what passed in the foregoing chapter, will have little curiosity for a detail of all the usual solemnities of the following day. It will not be difficult to imagine he sees all the propriety of dress and behaviour, a decent procession to a crowded church, the minister performing the office, the venerable father giving his daughter, the loveliest of women bestowing her hand, and the finest gentleman of his age receiving it, with a grace peculiar to such characters.

At the return from church, an universal complacency appeared in the countenances of all above-stairs, and more noisy expression of mirth was allowed to those below, and without-doors. Dinner was served with elegance, without profusion, and toasts were drank by the amiable guests, without noise or intemperance. Sense supplied the place of tumult, and pleasantry and good humour that of ribaldry and
low

low witticism. The dance indeed was given up, as one of the guests was least likely to bear a part in it: but *happy, happy, happy pair!* with some other chanzonettas on the occasion, were sung by Lady Bab to Lady Emlin's harpsichord, and a duet by both, in which both excelled. Being seated again at the table, Lady Bab said, she believed a few matches like this would bring wedlock into mode, and put keeping out of countenance. "Your own, Madam," said Lady Emlin, "will bear a principal part in procuring such a reformation, if to be procured by such means." The Colonel bowed to the compliment: and Lady Foster said, 'There is no reforming such low creatures by this means, or any other; since it is not want of virtue, but want of sense, which, in the general, makes them offenders. The pleasure arising from an union of minds, interests and inclinations, a continual exchange of good offices, and a sweet contention for superiority in compliances, cannot be felt without some degree of delicacy of taste,

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' taste, and purity of heart; and therefore
 ' cannot be known to these rebels to God
 ' and nature, and experience. My happi-
 ' ness in the married state was so pure and
 ' unmixed, tho' I make no pretension to
 ' any extraordinary refinements, that I
 ' have been able to subsist with cheerful-
 ' ness upon the memory of it; where
 ' the once author of that happiness lives,
 ' and pleases, and entertains.'--"If I am in
 " the second," cries Lady Bab, "I find
 " your Ladyship puts in for a third place
 " among the honours of wedlock. But
 " you will excuse me, if I am not of quite
 " so fine a taste as to think myself happy
 " in the mere memory of happiness. My
 " soldier, you know, may be shot, and
 " no-body knows how soon: and must I
 " ever after live upon the spare diet of me-
 " mory?"—"You mad thing you," said
 Lady Emlin, "what a thought have you
 ' started! it chills my heart, and checks
 ' the flow of joy in it. With what gay
 ' indifference do you talk of an event
 ' which would cost me my life. I think
 ' the first wish of married people should

“be to live well with each other; the next,
 “to die together.”—“Excellent creature!”
 cried Sir John. “Your first wish, Madam,
 “you are certain to have; and your se-
 “cond too, if you should die before me;
 “for I am sure I could not survive you
 “many hours.”—“Very well indeed,” said
 Lady Bab, “for the first day of mar-
 “riage.”—“And very well for the second
 “month of it,” answered Sir Henry; “as
 “happy, I dare say, as the first day. But
 “we will excuse your humour, since we
 “know your heart.”—Soon after, Sir
 Henry being observed to drop a tear,
 and to endeavour to hide it by wiping it
 from his cheek, his daughter with emo-
 tion asked, if he was not well. He re-
 plied, “It was a tear, I own, my dear; but
 “it was a tear of joy; a sensibility of pre-
 “sent happiness from every object round
 “me, a view of future, a reflection on
 “past incidents.—The past incidents
 “should rather push a tear of another sort,
 “in my opinion,” said Lady Bab.—“In-
 “deed, Madam,” replied Sir Henry,
 “you will change your opinion, if you
 “will

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" will please to bestow a little attention.
 " Loss of estate, banishment from one's
 " country, contempt of relations, separa-
 " tion from friends, do not carry a very
 " smiling appearance; but may be the
 " source of virtues, which outweigh all
 " the gifts of fortune and affluence, and
 " productive of a superior happiness in
 " kind, than that which was supposed to
 " be lost. The contempt of riches and
 " state, which the worst of villains have
 " had, is a greater good than the posses-
 " sion of them. I lost estate, but I did
 " not forfeit my honour: I was not ba-
 " nished from my country, while I resided
 " in any part of his majesty's dominions;
 " and was conscious of serving him in the
 " post allotted by Providence. I did not
 " cringe to be wealthy, nor flatter to be
 " great. Oppression teaches fortitude, and
 " afflictions submission; and the mind,
 " unconscious of guilt or baseness, with
 " health, can support itself under any
 " turns of fortune, and smile superior to
 " sorrow. The most touching and hard-
 " to-be-resisted part of my seeming cala-
 " mities

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“mities were there,” (pointing to his daughter) “I own that was my tender,
 “my accessible part: I vented many a
 “sigh, and shed some tears: but how
 “blindly! how unjustly! If she had not
 “been dependent, she would not have
 “known the best of guardians, and must
 “have lost all that direction which that
 “lady’s lessons gave, and example recommended to her. Had she not been
 “distressed, she had not been rescued: if
 “she had not been rescued, she might
 “have been unacquainted with the gentleman, the most worth knowing in the
 “world; she might not have been Lady
 “Emlin.”—‘I fancy,’ said the Colonel,
 ‘the turns of your life might be worked
 ‘up into a very agreeable and instructive
 ‘story, if we had all the particulars of it.’
 —“You divert me,” replied Sir Henry,
 “when you talk of my history: the
 “history of a private man, who has
 “passed the greatest part of his life in
 “too much indolence and obscurity. But
 “whatever becomes of my history, I am
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“ of opinion, that the account of private
“ persons, who are above the vulgar way
“ of thinking, and have met with any
“ variety of turns, and changes in life,
“ and have made proper reflections upon,
“ and conducted themselves with decency
“ and propriety under, them, might read
“ more useful and entertaining lessons to
“ mankind, than embattled armies, and
“ princes and heroes at the head of them,
“ and all the intrigue of cabinets, and the
“ parade of courts, which strike the eye,
“ and open the mouth, of silly wonder.
“ Commend me to the French writers of
“ memoirs, who think to immortalize
“ their names, by mixing them in the same
“ page with the princes and great men,
“ their cotemporaries; tho’ they really
“ have no more to do with them, than the
“ exulting lie with the dust, raised by the
“ wheel he sits on. But my name, you
“ see, is going: I shall soon leave it; and
“ my daughter has changed it already.
“ What is to be done?— I will tell you
“ Sir John; I prophesy you will have a
“ son,

“ son, and a fine boy I hope he will be
 “ by nature, and finer by the education
 “ of two such parents : and, by-and-by,
 “ Sir *Osmond* Emlin may preserve the
 “ memory of the names, friendship the
 “ alliance, of both : or, if you will hear
 “ the utmost of my wishes, let him bury
 “ us in oblivion, and make us forgot and
 “ lost in the superior light of his own
 “ virtues and actions.”

A fortnight passed in such conversations as might be expected from persons studious to please, and to be pleased with each other, and in receiving and returning the compliments and visits of the neighbourhood : among which none was more grateful than that of the Earl and Countess, with whom Lady Emlin had been so much connected. They had also the pleasure of a very obliging letter of congratulation from Mr. Mortimer, who was at Bath, for his health, and hoped to be well enough to wait on them in person from thence, when they came to *Osmond-Place*, which he imagined would be soon :

and that his mother revived in spirits and health every day, at the expectation of so delightful an interview.

The appointed time for ceremony being over, Sir Henry put the company in mind of their engagement to go with him to Osmond-Place; whither his domestic affairs necessarily called him. They set out accordingly; and as the time of their arrival had been notified before, the whole neighbourhood of the family, friends and tenants, came out in crouds to meet them, and gave pleasure to every eye, but an unspeakable joy to the humane heart of Sir Henry; who received the welcome of the gentry with an engaging grace of looks and behaviour; and, after an entertainment, before ordered, agreeable to the antient hospitality of that mansion, dismissed his attendants with hearts and eyes overflowing at his kind promise of removing every grievance, wiping the tear from every eye, and restoring the usual face of easy and plenty to the country.

At this time a writ being come for electing a burgeses, in the room of one deceased in

in a neighbouring borough, connected with the family by the influence of its estate, and still more so by their just admiration and love for the present possessor, he was chosen their representative, without opposition, without solicitation, nay, without the knowledge of it, till they waited on him in a body, and acquainted him with it, by shewing him their return. He made all proper acknowledgments for the power they had given him of serving his country in a new capacity; and declared he received it as a sacred trust, and would endeavour to account for it in the best manner he could to them, and to the world.

After settling some affairs, as far as the time would permit; and putting others in a disposition to be settled, he left the country, followed by the blessings and acclamations of the people, and proceeded to pass some days at Emlin-Grove, till the parliament met, and he went to take his seat in that assembly.

The

The scene of action was now changed, but the man was the same, and his constant object the good of his country, and of mankind. He was ever doing the best in his power to promote it. When in garrison at Gibraltar, he laid many plans for securing and improving that important fortress, which have been brought to a degree of perfection by a noble lord, the governor of it. And in his new situation, he proposed many salutary measures, and concurred with all, by whomsoever proposed, which seemed to carry the same appearance. The care of our marine was his favourite topic, and he was never weary of shewing the necessity of its superiority, for the security and happiness of this island, either in peace or war. At the end of the session he retired to Emlin-Grove, where his honest heart gave itself up to joy, and easy converse with the happiest pair, and the hope of an offspring worthy of them.

From this relaxation he had proposed returning to his duty in the house, as soon as summoned to it; frequently saying, he thought

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thought non-attendance, or negligence in it, as base and punishable as desertion of his post in his military life, or sleeping upon it. He saw, he lamented, the faults of the times; and, had he lived, would have laboured to amend them. He ever thought the silly ambition of place, parade, shew, and dissipation, to be a direct delirium of the brain. The ever-filling thirst of frivolous pleasures he called the *Dropfy*, and indolence the *Palsy*, of the mind. Whether it was from his observation of some rising geniuses, or from a sensibility, something of a divining power, sometimes exerted by the soul, when it is disengaging itself from the clogs of flesh, and pruning its wings for unincumbered flight, I know not; but he said, I think they were almost the last words he said, “ I wish to see——nay, I
 “ do see him——Is it vision? is it reality?
 “ I see the godlike man, endowed from
 “ above with extraordinary talents for
 “ saving a sinking nation, and possessed
 “ of a heart to exert them for its pre-
 “ servation :

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"servation : I behold him emerging ;
 "repelling the waves of faction, and
 "trampling envy and detraction under
 "his feet ; fearless of danger, superior to
 "lucre, above the allurements of plea-
 "sure ; intrusted by his most gracious
 "prince with the power of doing good,
 "and reflecting honour on the trust, by
 "doing it : I see a free people, discern-
 "ing their interest, and him the guardian
 "of it, preventing his demands of assist-
 "ance, and pouring millions into his
 "hand, sure to be expended for their
 "welfare and glory. And I think I see
 "(O let me indulge the thought!) a train
 "of kindred spirits, rising by example,
 "and pushing to tread after him the paths
 "of honour ; while those who have been,
 "or have endeavoured to be, the bene-
 "factors of the human race, and myself
 "behind them all, look down from their
 "mansions with complacency ; and hea-
 "ven, appeased by these dawnings of
 "public virtue, crown with success the
 "glorious work." 7 JY 65

F I N I S.

